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## Final farewell to Hong Kong

### Chinese promise to preserve laws and democracy

FROM DAVID WATTS AND JONATHAN MIESKY IN HONG KONG

BRITAIN yielded Hong Kong, its most successful modern colony, to the Government of China last night in ceremonies which were by turns extraordinarily emotional and austere.

In the end, the handover from capitalist to communist state was carried through faultlessly — despite the bickering of the last few days — and Britain got the assurances it sought. President Jiang Zemin committed his country to "unswervingly administer" the joint agreement between the two countries and to preserve Hong Kong's previous social system and its laws fundamentally unchanged.

Most importantly, the Chinese leader committed his country to allow Hong Kong to develop its democratic system in a manner suitable to the Hong Kong reality. Those were the words the Hong Kong people and the British representatives had hoped to hear. Once uttered, the atmosphere visibly warmed as Mr Jiang went on to reassure his audience that Hong Kong's importance as an economic centre would be maintained.

Earlier, the Prince of Wales, reading a message on behalf of the Queen, had put China on notice that its commitments under the Joint Declaration must be met. He said: "Hong Kong has shown how East and West can learn to live and work together. It has brought us together and enriched all our lives." Britain had been privileged to be responsible for the people of Hong Kong since Hong Kong had been so conspicuously successful.

The most anxious moment in all the complexity of the arrangements for both sides

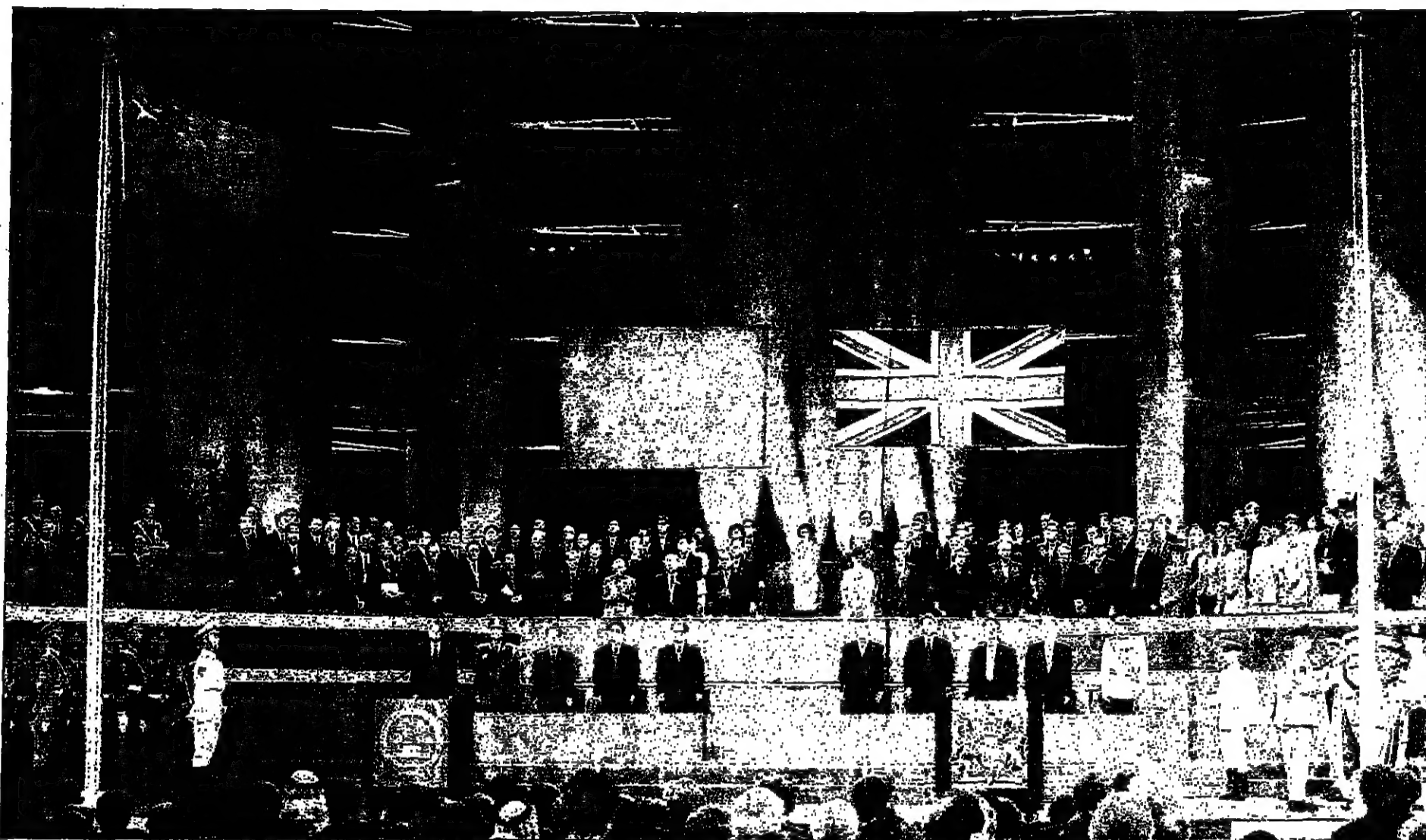
had been to ensure that, as midnight and the hour of handover approached, there should be five seconds before the winking hour between the Life Guards ending their rendition of *God Save the Queen* and the raising of the flag of China and the new Special Administrative Region. Five seconds for the Chinese conductor to raise his baton for the national anthem. In the end, the Guards did him proud, ending 25 seconds early.

The ceremony had started with the Chinese in wide-eyed amazement at finding themselves on Hong Kong territory after 156 years of turbulent anti-imperial history and not a little afraid of the reception they might get. It was brief and austere, as the Chinese had wished, with the formal lowering of the Union flag and the raising of the flag of the People's Republic of China and the new flag of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, but it ended with President Jiang using the English of which he is so proud to chat with Prince Charles. They strolled away from the central dias apparently perfectly at ease.

The deed done, the official party moved off swiftly to the waterfront and *Britannia*, where the now former governor, Mr and Mrs Patten said goodbye to a mass of friends waiting to see them off. Soon *Britannia* was gone and heading for Manila at the close of an extraordinary era in British history.

The day had begun with the first of a series of formal ceremonies: a moving moment as the governor and his family left Government House for the last time. Chris Patten accepted the folded Union Flag in front of Government House while his daughters, their faces drained, looked on. His staff in tears, the pipers played *Highland Cathedral*, the governor's favourite song. There was no speech from the departing leader; none was

Continued on page 2, col 1



The moment 156 years of British rule came to an end: the Union flag is lowered and China's flag raised. President Jiang Zemin of China declared that it was "a new dawn"

## Tears and rain mingle as the retreat is beaten

FROM SIMON JENKINS IN HONG KONG

THE party is over. The British rule in Hong Kong ended on the dot of midnight last night, in torrential rain but with dignity and panache. The Last Post had been sounded, the Retreat Beaten.

The weather was awful but the ceremonial superb. The Pacific Empire went out on the completion of a property contract, in a swirl of pipes and a rattle of drums. The massed bands defied the thunderstorms sweeping down from The Peak, and played *The Day Thou Gavest Lord Has Ended*. The flag dipped and a lone pipe played the lament. The audience sang *Auld Lang*

*Syne*, the tears mingling with the rain. The Governor admitted he had long run out of handkerchiefs. Tony Blair looked bemused, the Prince of Wales merely wet.

Whoever planned the surrender date of the Hong Kong lease clearly failed to remember the monsoons. The outdoor ceremony was supposed to have been cancelled in the event of rain. Yet as the clouds which had hovered all day over the colony duly broke, the organisers went ahead. Never in the history of diplomacy can so much power and money, so many beautiful suits and dresses, have been so thoroughly soaked to the skin.

The ceremony was lifted unchanged from every retreat-

from-empire textbook. It was middle-brow to the last. Local children danced inside dragons and paraded as three tokens of modern Hong Kong, as world currencies, microchips and academic gowns. Dame Gwyneth Jones acted Vera Lynn, with *I'll See You Again*. Brian Blessed gave a potted history of the place. The orchestra played Elgar. The Prince of Wales made a dull speech, standing in what appeared to be a waterfall. The Governor made a moving one.

Mr Patten said he was the twenty-eighth and last to hold his office. "Hong Kong people are now to run Hong Kong," he said. "That is the promise and that is the unshakable

destiny." The Patten edge was there to the end. Hong Kong must have political liberty and economic freedom, but for that they must now look to themselves.

Mr Patten was cheered to the skies. He has been a popular Governor and never more so than of late. He offered Hong Kong's democratic leaders a taste of what they should have had long ago. Politicians who once accused the British of know-nothingness to Beijing are doing so no longer. The di-tat boycotts of last night's banquet and government inauguration are an ironic measure of Mr Patten's success. He has made politics matter in Hong Kong. *The South China Morning*

*Post's* last poll, conducted this week, has 50 per cent of Hong Kongers saying they would still prefer to remain British, and shows Mr Patten's stock rising to the end.

Yet China's claim is rightful. As the guests moved from the sudden parade ground to the huge new convention centre, the Chinese leadership arrived to assert it. They were greeted

by a stupendous fireworks display, punching galaxies of stars into the gloomy clouds and showering firestorms down on Kowloon. The Chinese are promising an even bigger display tonight, with five times more tonnes of gunpowder being hoisted aloft, and helped by five times the leverage on

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## Players cut up rough over Centre Court

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

WIMBLEDON last night admitted concern over the state of Centre Court after complaints by leading players following weeks of heavy rain. Pete Sampras, Boris Becker and Tim Laverne said the surface was less firm than on the neighbouring No 1 Court and Jana Novotna, the former women's finalist, claimed the grass was "badly damaged".

Throughout the first week players were seen prodding the surface with their rackets after apparently being surprised by the bounce. After his straight sets victory over the Zimbabwean Byron Black yesterday Sampras, the top men's seed, confirmed he found the bounce uneven. "I've never seen Centre Court so chopped up, obviously because of the rain and all the play on it. It's hard. There are areas where there's no grass. It's like cement," he said.

The All England Club admitted the grass on Centre Court was softer and "more susceptible to damage" than in previous years. A spokesman blamed excess moisture created inside the heavy covers that had to be left on before and during the tournament.

Eddie Seaward, the head groundsman, said last night: "I am obviously concerned but once the moisture has dried out, I am confident the court will become firmer, look better and continue to perform well."

Forecast, page 26 Wimbledon, pages 49, 50, 52

## Spending pushes pound to high

The pound rose to a five-year against the German mark as strong consumer spending data pointed to another increase in interest rates. Dealers continued to sell other European currencies amid renewed concern over the viability of monetary union.

The pound was boosted by figures showing consumer credit growing by £1.1 billion in May, the second-largest increase on record ... Page 27

## More BA staff vote for strike

TGWU ground crew workers joined cabin crew in a vote for strike action against British Airways, threatening to ground the airline at the height of the holiday season. Shop stewards will meet today to decide on action in protest at the selling off of the airline's catering operation.

## Ellm Juninho

Middlesbrough have accepted an £11 million offer from Tottenham Hotspur for their 24-year-old Brazilian midfielder player, Juninho. Atlético Madrid are also after him and are willing to meet the asking price ... Page 46

## Doctors sound alarm over 'emergencies only' scenario

BY IAN MURRAY MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

HOSPITALS will be able to handle only emergencies this winter, with financial pressures for the next two years which make it at best unclear how the NHS can continue to function," he told the conference.

The doctors rejected any idea of charging patients for care, and laid down a clear pre-Budget marker that the Treasury must find more money to prevent a doomsday.

Giving warning that the National Health Service faced the gravest crisis in its 50 years, doctors from round the country told the annual conference of the British Medical Association that there was no spare capacity to cope with the inevitable extra winter demand on services. Dr Sandy Macara, the chairman, said that even in last year's mild winter, waiting lists had to be allowed to rise to protect emergency admissions. The winter ahead would be far worse, said Jim Johnson, chairman of the hospital consultants committee. All non-emergency work would have to stop until the spring, hospital corridors and even ambulances could be filled with patients queuing

for trolleys. "The pressures we shall have to face this winter will be the worst ever, with financial pressures for the next two years which make it at best unclear how the NHS can continue to function," he told the conference.

The doctors rejected any idea of charging patients for care, and laid down a clear pre-Budget marker that the Treasury must find more money to prevent a doomsday.



The hospital were going to sew it back on but as it wasn't an emergency...

scenario reducing the service to a minimum.

The doctors also wanted a better pay deal. "Our new political masters must not continue to mistake dedication to our patients as signifying passivity," Dr Macara said to warm applause. "We cannot continue to be forced to work in a system in which the pressures are those of a business-driven enterprise while the rewards are those of a care-driven service."

Evan Harris, a junior doctor and newly elected Liberal Democrat MP for Oxford West and Abingdon, said he was living proof that the public would vote for someone who called for increased taxation to pay for health.

"We must have a proper debate and engage battle on fair direct taxation, which the Government, despite their claim to rule out nothing in their search for more money, appears to have excluded," he said.

The Health Secretary is faced with two options: increased funding or continued crisis: this is Dobson's choice."

Waiting record, page 6

The Times on the Internet  
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>



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# Blair talks tough with Beijing leaders



**HONG KONG HANDOVER**  
FROM JILL SHERMAN  
CHIEF POLITICAL  
CORRESPONDENT  
IN HONG KONG

TONY BLAIR last night gave a warning to Chinese leaders that Hong Kong would be "destroyed" if Beijing did anything to undermine the Joint Declaration. Hours before the official handover, Mr Blair hardened his language. He admitted that he viewed the next few months with "trepidation and apprehension".

He made clear before his meeting with President Jiang Zemin of China that the new regime would need to stick to the spirit and the letter of the Joint Declaration or risk international condemnation.

He signalled his own concerns about the uncertainties of the next few months when the provisional legislature is put in place. "Whatever the emotional tugs, we have to look to the future. That is the reality. There is nothing else we can do," he said. "If we have to act, then the people of Hong Kong will expect us to mobilise international opinion. China must know Hong Kong will be destroyed if they try to undermine the Joint Declaration."

President Jiang attempted to allay Mr Blair's concerns at their meeting, which lasted for 40 minutes last night. He even invited the Prime Minister to visit China. Mr Blair accepted the invitation but it is unlikely that he will take up the offer this year. However, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, may make an earlier visit.

Before he arrived in Hong Kong, Mr Blair had made much more cautious remarks about any potential abuse of power by the Chinese after the handover. But last night he toughened his tone after a meeting with Tung Chee-hwa, the new Chief Executive, be-



People's Liberation Army troops listen to speeches in Shenzhen yesterday before crossing the border to their Hong Kong posting, where President Jiang Zemin, below, was being welcomed.

fore he met President Jiang and Li Peng, the Chinese Prime Minister.

"It is a momentous occasion for Hong Kong, for Britain and for the Chinese," said Mr Blair. "We would be dishonest if we did not say that it is a very strange feeling for us and one which we approach with trepidation." Before his meeting with the Chinese leaders he underlined the importance

of good relations between the countries, particularly in regard to human rights. "Britain is the best guarantor of the liberties that the people of Hong Kong have," he said. "Britain expects them to keep to the terms of the agreements. If that is put at risk the Chinese would be putting the whole stability of Hong Kong in jeopardy."

Earlier, at his meeting with

Mr Tung, Mr Blair welcomed the Chief Executive's assurance that free and fair elections would be held within a year. And he received a guarantee from Mr Tung that elections would be held by next May at the latest and that they would be both free and fair. "That is an important step forward," Mr Blair said. He had made clear that he was keen to embark on a "new

beginning" in the relationship with China but based on a clear adherence to the Joint Declaration. He told the Chinese leaders that he had no desire to fight old battles again but he also pointed out the importance of Britain as a signatory of the declaration and the impact both on Britain's own position and international opinion if this was not adhered to.

Earlier, in unprecedented scenes, Mr Blair was mobbed by thousands of people in a shopping precinct. The Prime Minister and Chris Patten, the Governor, were cheered and applauded at an impromptu walkabout.

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Anatole Kaletsky, page 22  
Leading article and  
Letters, page 23



## Mainland welcomes the first of 'three steps forward'

FROM JAMES PRINGLE  
IN BEIJING

"WHAT does it matter to us common people whether Hong Kong comes back now or not?" asked a 32-year-old man here yesterday. "It only makes a difference to the [Communist] Party. For the common people, those who eat vegetables, will continue to eat vegetables, and those who eat rice will continue to eat rice." In other words, nothing will change in his life.

Chinese people have grown cynical over the years of official campaigns, be it the Great Leap

Forward, the 100 Flowers, the Cultural Revolution or the current relentless propaganda about the handover and President Jiang Zemin's "lofty mission" in Hong Kong. After all, no matter what government was in power in Beijing, China would still have been resuming sovereignty over Hong Kong. It is not, *per se*, an achievement of the Party, although it is one that makes all Chinese proud.

British imperialism in China has had its glorious episodes, from the Opium Wars to the sacking of the Summer Palace in Beijing by British troops. However, it is hard to demonise the British in Hong

Kong, as the Japanese are demonised in China, or project them as oppressors. As a resident of Weihai, a former British treaty port, said recently: "The British did not massacre anyone."

Bai Shu Zhen, 57, lives in a hutong — a traditional grey-walled lane — just behind Tiananmen Square. Yesterday morning she was out trimming her rose bushes. "I go to Tiananmen every night for a walk, but tonight I can't go — it is closed," she said. "But my 21-year-old son will be dancing in the official ceremonies on the square, and I will be watching television. I'm happy that Hong Kong will

come back and I think the British will be just as happy as us, for it's the time to hand over Hong Kong to China. Hong Kong's prosperity isn't all because of Britain's work. Many Chinese, especially Hong Kong people, also made a contribution to that. I believe China itself will become more prosperous after the handover, but as to my own life, nothing will change."

Another group of women, standing together in a hutong near Capital Hospital, were in a good mood, planning how they would spend their three-day handover holiday. "During these three days," said one, "we will be watching

television, seeing the spectacular fireworks and walking in Tiananmen Square when it's not cordoned off."

"We are happy, while the British won't be happy at the handover," said another woman. "But Britain has done a good job in Hong Kong in every way. For instance, Britain has enhanced the living standards of the people."

Asked about the violent events in Tiananmen, most people say that they are "now in the past".

One woman said: "We have three steps to go — Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan. Hong Kong is the first step."

## 'We will take you home in our hearts' Tears and rain mingle as retreat is beaten

Continued from page 1  
necessary then. He was driven out of the gates of Government House for the last time to attend the British waterfront ceremonies with his wife. Barely an hour later, President Jiang's Boeing 747 touched down at Kai Tak airport, the first chairman of the Chinese Communist Party on Hong Kong soil.

The return of Hong Kong ends years of shame and humiliation which China endured at the hands of foreign powers. Pouring rain added to the poignancy of the reality

that the colonial power was giving up six and a half million free Chinese, who have built a city state 50 times richer than China's poorest province, to a totalitarian government from which most had originally fled. At the British waterfront ceremony, Mr Patten said: "We will take Hong Kong home in our hearts. You have been kind to us and you have made us welcome. Now Hong Kong people will run Hong Kong: that is the promise and that is the destiny."

Just as the British ceremony ended, the first batch of PLA

troops arrived at the border ready to move across.

Earlier in the day Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, received an assurance from his Chinese counterpart, Qian Qichen, that the Hong Kong Police will be used for internal security and there is no question of the PLA soldiers being used for anything other than external defence.

Soon after the handover, the billionaire businessman Tung Chee-hwa, 60, was sworn in as the first chief executive of Hong Kong. The ceremony was boycotted by U.S. Secre-

tary of State Madeleine Albright and British ministers, in opposition to Beijing's decision to scrap the Legislative Council and replace it with an unelected provisional legislature.

Elections are possible next May. The leader of Hong Kong's popular Democratic Party, Martin Lee, defiantly served notice from the balcony of the council building that he would fight on for democracy. "We pledge to continue to be the voice of Hong Kong people — in or out of office — and to fight to get democracy back."

Continued from page 1  
local businesses to pay for it. The banquet was hosted by foreign ministers, since Chinese President Jiang had refused to be "paired" with the Prince of Wales rather than the Queen. As a result the meal took on something of a Rotary Club gala. A miracle of protocol contrived four top tables of 40 guests each, of identical placement status.

Chief care had to be taken of that most imperceptibly sensitive group, the British Conservative Party. Baroness Thatcher had to be measured

from Sir Edward Heath, he from William Hague, he from Lord Howe, and he from Mr Patten. Saving the "face" of the Chinese politburo was child's play in comparison.

The dinner will go down as a classic of mass catering. Four thousands guests were champagne, canapés, sealed and fed three courses inside two hours. The key was simplicity. Chinese food was banned as too complex.

From this the evening passed swiftly to anti-climax, the formal handover ceremony in the main convention

hall. By now Europeans were heavily outnumbered by Chinese. European familiars stuck out among them as if in a dream, seated apparently at random. There was Richard Branson, there Sir David Frost, there Rupert Murdoch, there Lord Hurd. Suddenly it was over. The People's Liberation Army goosestepped on, sage, the Union Jack was lowered and the rasping mar-darin of President Jiang wel-

comed "a new dawn". By my watch the British Empire shut up shop two minutes early. Back out in the rain, *Britannia* was already preparing to slip its moorings.

A few miles up the road, 4,000 PLA troops were preparing to move to the old Prince of Wales barracks, from which its motto had hurriedly been removed. At Government House they had already auctioned off the crockery. But the Rolls-Royce was left behind. It awaits a new owner.

MATTHEW PARRIS IS ON PAGE 6

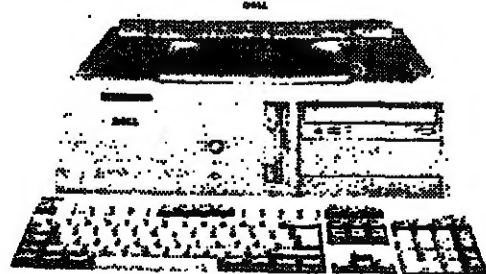
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# Plain-speaking and tears from Patten



Chris Patten, the twenty-eighth and last Governor of Hong Kong, holds a folded Union flag as he receives an honour salute at Government House before his departure at yesterday's handover

BY JONATHAN MIRSKY

CHRIS PATTEN bowed his head and wept at the farewell ceremony last night just after delivering his final words as Britain's twenty-eighth Governor of Hong Kong: "Now Hong Kong people are to run Hong Kong. That is the promise. And that is the unshakeable destiny."

Mr Patten had been cheered to the echo around the Tamar naval parade ground by a crowd of 10,000, mostly Chinese. The Governor began his speech with the kind of plain-speaking about the opium trade that few of his predecessors ever ventured. Hong Kong's British chapter, he said, "began with events that from today's vantage point ... none of us here today would wish or seek to condone."

Then it was the turn of the Prince of Wales, dressed in naval uniform, to give the first of his two speeches before the Union flag was lowered. The heavens opened, soaking the bearskins and the sporrans of the soldiers arrayed before him, and making inaudible the shrieked orders of their officers.

The Prince spoke for five minutes on behalf of the Queen but his words were drowned in the torrential rain. Fortunately, the key words that we were all meant to hear — rule of law, pride, legacy of family and friendship, enduring ties, long history — appeared in large characters on a huge outdoor television screen.

The troops, members of Black Watch, Scots Guards, Royal Marines, Gurkhas, Navy, Army, and the Royal Air Force did what they do best when they are not fighting: marching and playing brisk music. There was also a lone piper.

With the floodlit *Briannia* lying alongside, and as the crowd got wetter and wetter and banged its feet to demonstrate its enthusiasm, it was possible momentarily to forget that power was truly passing elsewhere.

Tony Blair was holding a "bilateral" meeting with President Jiang Zemin in a hotel across the harbour. The Chinese leader was studiously avoiding any street demonstrations by also sailing across the water directly to the Convention Centre, the site of the handover. He would arrive just late enough to snub the banquet hosted by the British.

## Friends see last governor off on sentimental journey

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

THE rain had stopped but there were plenty of teardrops last night on the quayside as Chris Patten — who less than an hour earlier had been the twenty-eighth Governor of Hong Kong — boarded the royal yacht *Briannia*.



goodbye. Mr Patten, his wife and three daughters, went along the line of well-wishers hugging and kissing most of

them. The Pattens and their friends were all in tears. One of the former Governor's bodyguards, Paul Yung, said: "I'm off duty now, but I'd save his life anytime."

There were clerks, secretaries, social secretaries and an aide de camp to the Governor, Paul Ellis, who said: "He was a lovely man, very warm. I can't say that for all the governors."

A Catholic nun, sister Marine, said: "I came here to wish them well. Mrs Patten was

one of our patrons at the hospice. She was very generous and always hands-on."

The wife of Han Dongfang, one of China's most famous dissidents, who has stayed behind despite the new rulers, waved goodbye to the Pattens. "My husband is out there in the city somewhere, I hope I'll see him soon," she said.

There had been some question as to whether the Chinese leaders would shake hands with Mr Patten. His present aide de camp, Lance Brown,

wearing his white uniform and plumed hat, said: "The Governor made President Jiang an offer he couldn't refuse. They shook hands."

As *Briannia* pulled away, taking the Governor and the Prince of Wales to the Philippines, 100 yards away a large crowd had assembled outside the Prince of Wales barracks, for many years the headquarters here of the British military. Two People's Liberation Army soldiers were standing guard at the gate.

Missed deadline: Journalists at Hong Kong's main English language newspaper, the *South China Morning Post*, were contemplating this morning after their entire computer system crashed within seconds of the official handover (Polly Newton writes).

The machines went down at two minutes past midnight, prompting semi-jovial speculation that the timing was not coincidental.

As final deadlines approached and there was no sign of normal service being resumed, one reporter on the paper said: "We are really pushing it now. It's the day that the paper has been waiting for for years and this has happened."

The *Post's* editor faced criticism in the months leading up to the handover for his decision to withdraw a cartoon strip, the *World of Suzy Wong*, which lampooned the Chinese administration in Beijing.

## Prince gives pledge of further support

THE Prince of Wales, handing over British sovereignty over Hong Kong to China, last night said the triumphant success of Hong Kong demanded and deserved to be maintained. He said:

"This important and special ceremony marks a moment of both change and continuity in Hong Kong's history. It marks, first of all, the restoration of Hong Kong to the People's Republic of China, under the terms of the Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984."

This ceremony also celebrates continuity because, by that same treaty and the many subsequent agreements which have been made to implement its provisions, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region will have its own government, and retain its own society, its own economy and its own way of life.

I should like to pay tribute to those who turned the concept of 'one country, two systems' into the Joint Declaration, and to the dedication and commitment of those who have worked so hard over the last 13 years to negotiate the details of the Joint Declaration's implementation.

But most of all I should like to pay tribute to the people of Hong Kong themselves for all that they have achieved in the last century and a half. The triumphant success of Hong Kong demands — and deserves — to be maintained. Hong Kong has shown the world how dynamism and stability can be defining characteristics of a successful society. These have together created a great economy which is the envy of the world.

Hong Kong has shown the world how East and West can live and work together. As a flourishing commercial and cultural crossroads, it has brought us together and enriched all our lives. Thirteen years ago the Gov-



The Prince yesterday: "Hong Kong has shown the world how East and West can live and work together"

ernments of the United Kingdom and the People's Republic of China recognised in the Joint Declaration that these special elements which had created the crucial conditions for Hong Kong's success should continue. They agreed that, in order to maintain that success, Hong Kong should have its own separate trading and financial systems, enjoy autonomy and an elected legislature, maintain its laws and liberties, and be run by the people of Hong Kong and be accountable to them.

Those special elements have served Hong Kong well over the past two decades. Hong Kong has coped with the challenges of great economic, social and political transition with almost none of the disturbance and dislocation which in other parts of the world have so often accompanied change on such a scale.

The United Kingdom has been proud and privileged to have had responsibility for the people of Hong Kong, to have

provided a framework of opportunity in which Hong Kong has so conspicuously succeeded, and to have been part of the success....

In a few moments, the United Kingdom's responsibilities will pass to the People's Republic of China. Hong Kong will thereby be restored to China within the framework of 'one country, two systems'....

China will tonight take responsibility for a place and a people which matter greatly to us all. The solemn pledges made before the world in the 1984 Joint Declaration guarantee the continuity of Hong Kong's way of life.

For its part, the United Kingdom will maintain its unwavering support for the Joint Declaration.

Our commitment and strong links will continue, and will, I am confident, flourish, as Hong Kong and its people continue to flourish.

## Gloomy expats hear last Archers episode

FROM DAVID WATTS IN HONG KONG

FORGET the imported Mars bars and newspapers: what will really leave British expatriates culturally deprived is the ending of *The Archers*.

Last night the last instalment went out and from now on, fans will have to have taped omnibus editions sent out from Britain.

"It's my routine every night," said one desperate expatriate wife. "As soon as I come through the door I turn it on."

The British Forces Broadcasting Service ceased its service at midnight and yesterday was busy packing its equipment into containers for shipment back to Britain.

Radio Television Hong Kong has decided not to pick up the option because the series is thought to be too politically incorrect. But with skilful blending of government and agricultural propaganda, surely a Phil Archer with Chinese characteristics could do wonders for the propaganda department in Beijing.

For those expatriates who do not know Tom Brokaw from Dan Rather, there will still be the BBC World TV Service on cable.

There was a last-minute rush of weddings in Hong Kong at the weekend as some tied the knot in the last 48 hours of colonialism.

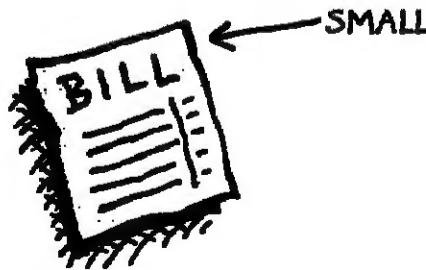
Altogether, 209 received the last marriage certificates topped with the Crown, including a British couple — Claudia Denio, who grew up in the colony, and Alexander Matheson, a Scot who turned up in his kilt for "a day worth remembering".

Seriously apart, the future of marriage under the new government is one of the great unknowns of the new era. Hong Kong couples are used to having two children — but under mainland rules that is strictly taboo.

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# Millions mute as curtain falls on final act

AFTER the departure of princes, presidents, prime ministers and governors — together with the horde of instant-expert anchor-people — the images remain.

CBS television last week broadcast "exclusive" footage of 50 smartly uniformed members of the hand-picked Chinese garrison learning English. Their caps gleamed before them, the soldiers chorused that day's mantra: "Please show me your identity card."

A second image: Martin Lee, chairman of the Democratic Party, one of Hong Kong's most admired politicians, who loses his seat in the old wholly elected Legislative Council. Mr Lee was trawling round a chic pre-handover party for "anyone who can show me how to climb up a ladder — elegantly, of course". Always impeccably dressed, he intended to defy a ruling by the new administration, barring him from the balcony of the Legislative Council building, by climbing up its facade with the world's television cameras on him, to give a speech to his supporters below. This media nightmare concentrated the minds of the new authorities, who said at the last minute that Mr Lee could appear without using a ladder.

Another image: the priest at Chris Patten's parish church reminding the congregation that Jesus said, "I come not to be served but to serve", and saying to Mr Patten: "You leave us with a shining example of how those words can be applied ... on the highest levels of secular authority."



When the after-images of ceremony fade, the focus will turn on a silenced majority, writes Jonathan Mirsky

But there remains another larger, blurred impression which drives many visiting journalists to wonder what "the story" of the handover has been, apart from the constant events set up for the media and the parties for the rich and the glamorous.

The large blur is the majority of Hong Kong's 6½ million Chinese people. They are the only British colonial subjects never prepared for an independence for which they were



wholly suited. Instead, they were handed back according to treaty, without consultation, to the country from which most of them or their parents and grandparents fled.

For weeks they have appeared impassive and bland, going about their business like the citizens of mainland Chinese cities during periods of strain such as the Cultural Revolution, when people were afraid to shut their eyes at night because of what they might be overheard saying in

their sleep; or as people appeared as they walked past stadiums during the "strike hard" campaigns as "criminals" were being executed.

In Hong Kong, in the days before the handover, people crowded to work in the central office district, the men in their modern Western suits, women in tailored jackets and mini-skirts, talking into mobile phones and checking their expensive watches. In the rural New Territories they flew Chinese red flags in places where not long ago they displayed others, from Taiwan.

Everywhere they bought handover kitsch — glasses, watches, T-shirts — bearing the 97 logo designed to give a go-ahead impression, and the new Hong Kong symbol, the modest (and sterile) bauhinia blossom, and took pictures of each other before colonial symbols such as Government House. They asked foreigners if we were going to leave after the handover and if we said no they smiled slightly. It was all very orderly.

As Chris Patten says, Hong Kong is one of the most peaceful cities in the world, a place where even a politically divided legislature is so courteous that it would be the envy of Westminster. He asks where the "instability", to which the new administration constantly refers, is to be seen,



A crowd cheers Chris Patten as he is driven away from Government House, his official residence, for the last time. To the surprise of some, he broke with tradition and failed to perform the "I will return" ritual in which departing governors circle the drive of the residence three times

and who the "people out there" are, mentioned often by Tung Chee-hwa, the new Chief Executive, and supposedly ready to destabilise Hong Kong.

The answer to Mr Patten's question, and the focus of Mr

Tung's fears are the people of Hong Kong. Beneath their calm, pleasant demeanour is another level, the one in which they harbour the beliefs they reveal to pollsters. As Mr Patten observed on Sunday, to

insist that Hong Kong people care only for money "is to demean them". Many do not want to be part of China or even think they are "Chinese"; they say they are "Hong Kong Chinese", or simply "Hong Kong people".

In 1989, after the Tiananmen Square killings, hundreds of thousands marched in protest and this year, on June 4, despite Mr Tung telling them to ignore the past, 60,000 of them took their candles to a Tiananmen vigil.

A majority of those questioned, where no one can overhear, despise the new appointed Legislative Council. In 1995 more than a million voted for its abolished predecessor, in a majority so large that if this were a real democracy Mr Lee would be prime minister — the very Mr Lee described as "a bad-mouther" by Mr Tung and a "black hand" by Beijing.

Traditionally, Chinese have admired those who speak truth to power: the mandarin

who tells off the emperor and is beheaded, the poet who writes an oblique poem bewailing an unjust regime. In the modern period, the Chinese once admired Mao, and later the investigative journalists who went to prison for exposing his excesses. Nowadays in Hong Kong, the prison letters of Wei Jingsheng, China's best-known political prisoner, sell briskly.

Mr Tung is quite right: there are indeed "people out there".

## Chinese keep options open with property in London

BY KATHERINE BERGEN

ESTATE agents expect Hong Kong Chinese buyers to continue to show interest in central London property even after the handover to China.

Interest from Hong Kong in the London residential market began to escalate in the early 1980s and now many buy property unseen without even visiting Britain.

Lorna Vestey of Knight Frank said that since 1992 Hong Kong Chinese had played a significant part in the recovery of the central London property market with purchases mainly of flats in new developments as letting investments.

"The rate of buying has

somewhat eased in the past few weeks, as their concerns are with events at home, but we expect that the Chinese influence in London will be every bit as long-lasting as the British influence has been in Hong Kong."

Jonathan Seal of Hamptons International said sales over the past year had been due principally to the handover. The investment and development wing of the company has staged 18 exhibitions in Hong Kong in the past six months and sales to Hong Kong Chinese clients account for around 65 per cent of properties sold.

"Around 90 per cent of

these clients are buying to invest in homes they can rent out. It is an upward trend growing on the back of the strong lettings market and we expect it to continue."

Agents agree that a "bolthole" option is only a secondary consideration for the Hong Kong Chinese buyer. Justin Shingles of Strutt & Parker said they would rather invest overseas than expose their money to possible risk at home. "These properties are nearly always for renting out but could be used to live in if it came to it," he said. "We expect interest in the London market to go up after the handover."

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# Crash mother learns of children's deaths

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A CRITICALLY injured woman thrown from the wreckage of a car crash cradled her newborn baby in hospital yesterday as distraught relatives broke the news that her husband and two young sons had been killed in the accident.

The wife of a wealthy farmer, Susan Cole, 35, who was nine months pregnant, was taken to hospital where she had an emergency Caesarean section within an hour. The 9lb 9oz boy was born safely.

Last night police confirmed that the 25-year-old driver of the lorry that had been in collision with the family's Ford Sierra head-on had failed a breath test at the scene. He remained under arrest last night.

Mrs Cole was told that her husband of eight years, Andrew, 37, and sons Henry, 4, and George, 2, were dead. Her daughter, Grace, 6, survived the crash on a country road at Chadwell St Mary, Essex, and was said to be stable in



Baby Cole yesterday. He was born after the crash

hospital. She had not been told of the death of her father and brothers.

The dead man's father, Alan Cole, 68, said at the family's 18th-century stone farmhouse: "They had just been shopping. My daughter-in-law had birth pains, so they had been to the local supermarket to restock the pantry before she went into hospital. This is devastating." The family were less than a quarter of a mile from home when the crash hap-

pened on Sunday afternoon.

Michael Martin, a consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist at Basildon Hospital, said: "I got a telephone call to say she had been admitted after an horrendous traffic accident. She had serious injuries and the baby was showing signs of distress."

Two teams of surgeons conducted the Caesarean section before operating on her injuries, which included severe bleeding of the liver, bruising

to other organs, pelvic damage and lacerations to her head.

Mr Martin said: "The baby would not have survived if it had not been promptly delivered. The mother was critical, but after the birth we were able to stabilise her condition. She has seen and held her newborn baby. She is coping, but will have to take the trauma step by step."

Last night Mrs Cole was said to be in a stable condition under sedation in intensive care. Her surviving daughter, who received a minor fracture of the pelvis and scalp wounds, remained under observation but was said to be recovering.

The driver of the lorry and a 28-year-old male passenger in the cab were unhurt. A spokesman for DHA Freight of Markyate, Hertfordshire, said: "We are deeply shocked to learn that a vehicle of ours was involved in a fatal crash. The vehicle was in the custody of a new employee who had collected it on Saturday. He was not on company business at the time. Our thoughts are with the family concerned."



Tracie Andrews leaving court after the opening day of her trial yesterday

## Tracie Andrews trial opens

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

TRACIE ANDREWS appeared at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday at the start of the trial into the murder of her 25-year-old fiancé Lee Harvey, who was stabbed to death on a country lane at Alvechurch, near Birmingham.

Miss Andrews, 27, of Alvechurch, was arrested on December 7 last year and later charged with his murder. She arrived at court in a prison van and sat in the dock to see the jury sworn in. The prosecution is scheduled to begin its opening argument today. The trial is expected to last two weeks.

Miss Andrews, who worked as a barmaid before her arrest, has been staying at the home of her mother, Irene Carter, in Alvechurch, on the same estate as the home she shared with Mr Harvey. Her mother and stepfather Alan Carter are taking care of her six-year-old daughter.

Mr Harvey was attacked on December 1. He received multiple stab wounds to his neck, face, back, head and body.

## Sex abuse couple try to silence the police

By LIN JENKINS

A COUPLE convicted of "horrific" paedophile offences, who have had to leave four homes since leaving prison, yesterday sought the protection of the law. They claimed in the High Court that the police had exceeded their powers and unlawfully had them evicted from a caravan site in North Wales, forcing them to live an itinerant life like "subgypsies".

Stephen Solley, QC, was launching a test case in which the married sex offenders are asking the court to rule that a policy introduced by North Wales Police, under which the public is told where paedophiles are in their area, is contrary to their rights and unreasonable. The couple are seeking an injunction restraining the police from their policy of releasing information about them.

The police claim that the couple were made to leave the caravan site only to protect children who were likely to visit during the Easter holiday.

The case will help to clarify the law on the conflict between a parent's right to know when a child abuser is living near by and the offender's right to privacy and the chance of rehabilitation. Other police forces are awaiting the outcome before deciding whether to adopt similar policies of naming paedophiles.

Mr Solley told the High Court that police had shown the owners of the caravan site newspaper reports about how the couple were hounded out of their previous home in Colwyn Bay. The reports gave details of their conviction in 1989. Lord Bingham of Cornhill reserved judgment.

## Girl, 8, is expelled for 'crime' of father

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A GIRL aged eight has been expelled from a private school in Merseyside because her father was questioned by police in connection with an alleged drugs offence.

Olivia Avis, who attended the McKee School in Allerton, Liverpool, was told to change into her outdoor shoes, was put in a taxi and sent home unaccompanied into the care of her sick 13-year-old sister.

She knew nothing of her father's alleged crime because her mother, who is separated from him, had been waiting for the best time to break the news to her.

Olivia's place at the school came into question as news spread among parents of the appearance before magistrates in Manchester of Edward Avis, who was accused of conspiring to import a controlled drug. Pamela McKee, the head teacher, said she expelled the girl because she was under pressure from other parents who were threatening to withdraw their children. She admitted she was wrong to send her home unaccompanied.

Elizabeth Avis, 36, Olivia's mother, from Childwall, said she was appalled by the school's behaviour and considered it outrageous her daughter could be punished for something her father was alleged to have done.

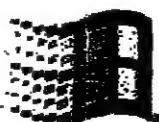
She said: "Olivia was terrified and crying her eyes out when she was put in the taxi. They put my daughter under serious risk by sending her home alone to a house that would have been empty if my other daughter had not been sick."

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# Doctors predict record waiting lists for hospitals

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

HE health service is plunging towards financial crisis with the prospect of record waiting lists, speakers at the British Medical Association annual meeting claimed yesterday.

There were warnings of healthcare rationing, hospitals overflowing with emergency cases, and GPs' waiting rooms filled with sick people needing operations and hospital treatment.

Jim Johnson, a surgeon who chairs the hospital consultants committee, said the prospects were fearsome. "We are already being asked to do more or the same money. Unless there are more funds we will see that non-emergency work in hospitals will stop, and it will stop sooner than last year. We will see patients lying on trolleys or being ferried round the countryside in ambulances trying to find a bed or intensive care."

Sandy Macara, chairman of the association, said he had explained the situation to the Government but there was no offer of extra resources. "I have every sympathy for the

All NHS trusts are to be compelled to hold their meetings in public, the Health Secretary said yesterday. Many already do. Frank Dobson told the annual health group meeting of the trade union Unison in Brighton, but those that did not would be forced to do so if Parliament approves regulations he is to put before it. He also outlined plans to make trusts more representative of those they serve. Appointments to be made in November and December would include more NHS users, patients and carers.

government health team because they have been given the impossible job of delivering on the assurances given before the election to cut waiting lists by 100,000. The fact is that the lists are increasing and will reach record levels. Without more money there is no chance that they will decrease.

"We have a very big uphill

struggle with the likelihood of a head-on clash between the Government and the public that had so many expectations when they elected it. We will have to become more and more aggressive. This Government deserves a honeymoon, but a honeymoon should demonstrate that a degree of long-term harmony is possible."

The association has called for an extra £1 billion in each of the next five years to make the service efficient. That would only cost an extra £17 a year or 30p a week per person, Dr Macara told the Edinburgh meeting.

Doctors also wanted a better pay deal. "Our new political masters must not continue to mistake dedication to our patients as signifying passivity," he said to warm applause. "We cannot continue to be forced to work in a system in which the pressures are those of a business-driven enterprise whilst the rewards are those of a care-driven service."

The conference overwhelmingly rejected motions calling for the introduction of charges

for patients or bringing in a dedicated tax for healthcare. But members voted narrowly in favour of re-examining alternative methods of paying for the NHS "if it is no longer possible to do this adequately



Sandy Macara, BMA chairman, said only extra funds could improve care

through prescription charges and taxation."

Jonathan Reggler, a GP from Marlow, Buckinghamshire, called on members to ask for charging as the only way to stop the health service from dying. "The BMA must stop wringing its hands, must stop bleating 'more tax' when it just won't happen," he said. The Labour Party had been forced to reinvent itself into a low-tax party in order to be electable, and it meant to keep that promise.

"If you accept that the burgeoning costs of the NHS cannot or will not be matched year after year by tax increases and that we must have new ways of providing funds, then you must support the idea of charges."

He was backed by Sir Anthony Grabham, a former BMA chairman. "It defies all our experience to expect the NHS ever will be properly funded by tax," he said. "It will be better for patients and better for doctors if we seek additional sources because then we might become less dependent on the Treasury."

Evan Harris, a junior doctor and newly elected Liberal Democrat MP for Oxford

West and Abingdon, said he was living proof that the public would vote for someone who called for increased taxation to pay for health. "We must have a proper debate and engage battle on fair direct taxation, which the Government, despite their claim to rule out nothing in their search for more money, appears to have excluded," he said. "The Health Secretary is faced with two options: increased funding or continued crisis: this is Dobson's choice."

But Peter Bennie, chairman of the junior doctors committee, captured the mood of the conference when he argued that charging would amount to putting a stake through the heart of the welfare state. "It is possible to do it through taxation and it is an affront to my principles that this association should even consider charging patients."

Chand Nagpaul, a GP from Edgware in north London, said doctors were "caught in the cross-fire between the patient and the reality of the bankrupt NHS. Haphazard, covert rationing is going on at local levels and treatment depends totally on where you live."

## Empire is shut but the Palace show goes on

POLITICAL SKETCH

The Palace of Westminster was finished just after Britain took Hong Kong, and just before St Pancras railway station opened. Britain as a nation was no older, then, than St Pancras is now. They are more recent than they seem, these ancient landmarks of British history.

As Britain's last significant colony was given away yesterday afternoon, you could be pardoned for concluding that the British Empire was over. The neo-Gothic palace constructed to crown it, however, was still going strong.

At Westminster, the scribbles were still scabbling, the kitchens still cooking, the printers still printing, and the MPs still gassing, just as they did when Parliament returned to its reconstructed premises in 1851.

At that time it governed half the world. As the enterprise shrinks, the headquarters continue to flood. The Lambe burn late, with MPs' former responsibilities for India, world trade and policing the globe replaced by a concern for village speed limits, pelican crossings and the Arcola Street Social Security Office in Hackney.

Arcola Street was raised at Social Security Questions yesterday by the Labour MP for Hackney N & Stoke Newington, Diane Abbott. She wanted an assurance from the Secretary of State, Harriet Harman, that no single mother would be forced into taking a job "on pain of losing benefit". Ms Harman said there would be "no compulsion".

Her Minister of State, however, the faintly intimidating Frank Field, was less reassuring when asked about what he called "unravelling our plans for welfare to work" for the under-25s. "Each of them," he breathed, "is very important to us." Hearing him, your average yob might shudder and wish

he were rather less important. But no, such was the "importance" of each that "there will therefore be four options", MPs gasped. Four options! Ah, continued Mr Field, but it was "the Prime Minister's view that there should be no fifth option: of remaining on benefit".

Put crudely, what Mr Field is saying to each important youth is "get your finger out or I'll send Tony round. Tony has views on young people who don't take training options. Very strong views. He gets awfully upset. That's how important you are to him."

Where Frank Field drops quite specific hints, the junior DHS minister John Denham plays safe with the blandest generalities. "There is no question," he mumbled yesterday in response to inquiries about pensions policy, "of anyone receiving anything other than the right pension." Placed Millions of senior citizens can sleep easy.

Ms Harman, meanwhile, has adopted a useful all-purpose answer to opposition spokesmen's attempts to pin her down after hints, dropped during the election campaign, of a more open-handed attitude to welfare benefits. "Work," she told her new Shadow, Iain Duncan-Smith, who had asked how she would help single mothers: what these people wanted was work, not benefits. Ms Harman makes those who harp on about benefits seem insensitive to the inner needs of the underclass.

A word of advice, finally, to Malcolm Wicks (Lab, Croydon N). There are probably better ways of phrasing the quandy facing pensioners who must choose between food and heating. As Mr Wicks put it, the "horrible judgement" of "whether to eat or heat their property" sounded terrible indeed.

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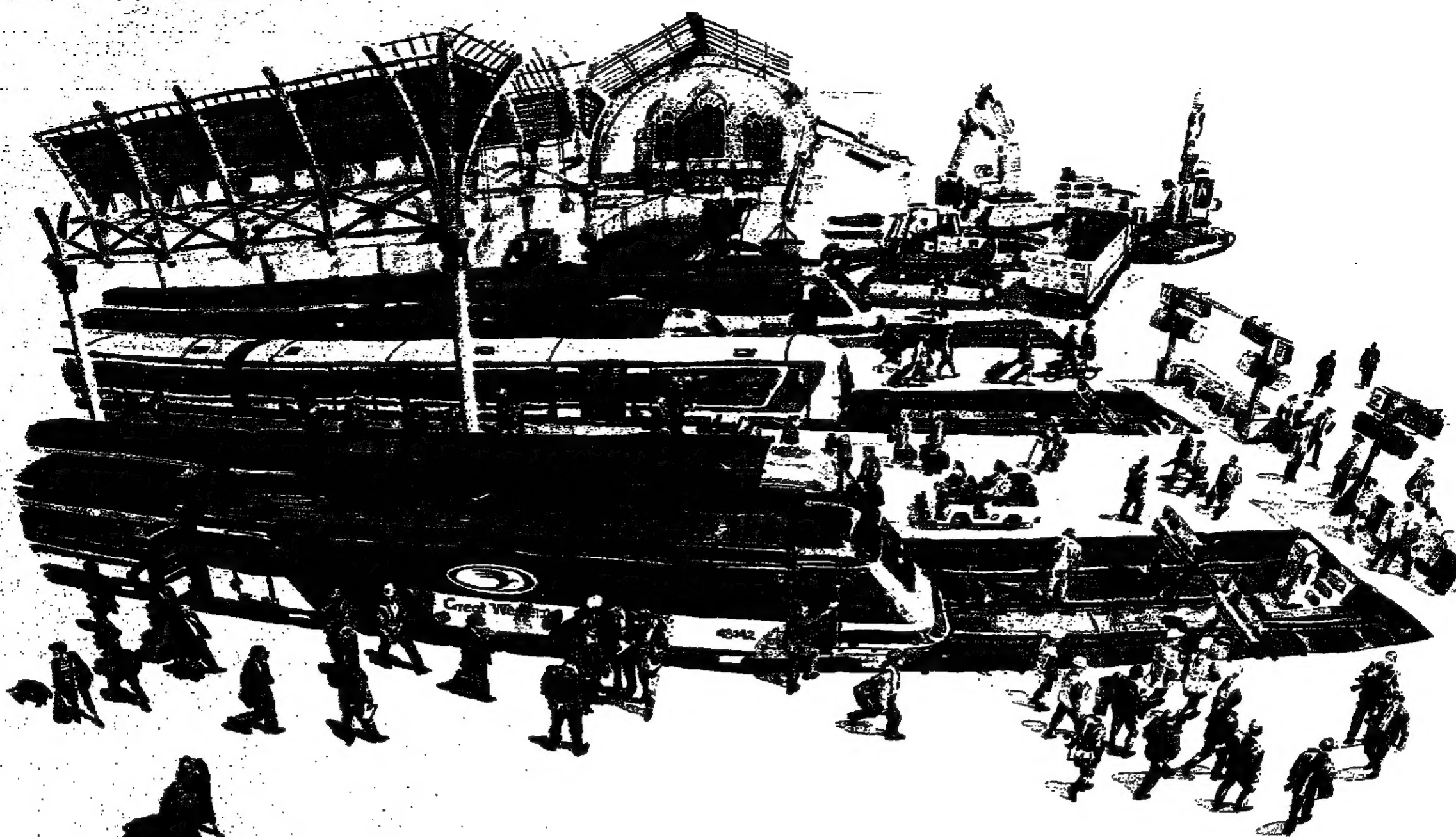
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## What a difference a day makes

Every day, we're spending £4 million to  
bring you a better railway.

### Better services

30% improved punctuality\*

### Better signalling

£220 million on signalling and electrification

### Better track

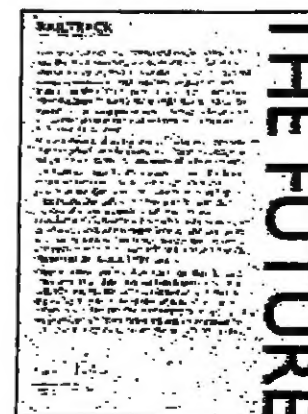
612 miles of renewed and repaired track

### Better stations

£120 million on station refurbishment



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# 'Moonlight' major's kidnap drama

The story of a daring mission to seize a German general is told in declassified SOE papers. Michael Evans reports

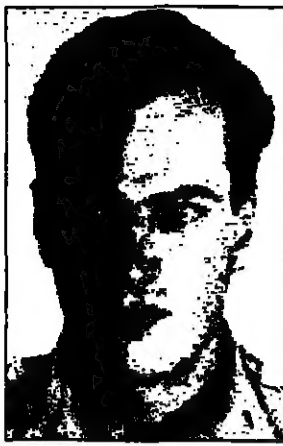
SECRET files released yesterday tell the full story of one of the most dramatic incidents of the Second World War, the special operations Executive mission to kidnap a German general in Crete.

The escape was later turned into a feature film, *Ill Met by Moonlight*, starring Dirk Bogarde. It was one of many SOE operations in Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania and Yugoslavia that involved derring-do by legendary figures.

In a highly classified report, SOE officer Major Paddy Leigh-Fermor described leading the team that captured General Heinrich Kreipe, divisional commander in Crete, in April 1944.

Major Leigh-Fermor, formerly of the Intelligence Corps, and Captain 'Billy' Moss, from the Coldstream Guards, were backed by seven Cretan agents. They later informed the German authorities that the general was in good hands and would be treated as "an honourable prisoner of war".

The report was written in the language of an officer who



Leigh-Fermor: drove through 22 roadblocks

kept his sense of humour, despite the appalling risks he and his team took. General Kreipe was commander of the 22nd Sebatopol (Bremen) Division. The SOE mission was to capture him and take him back to Britain.

Major Leigh-Fermor, who lives in Greece, described leaving for Heraklion dressed in a shepherd's costume to find the best ambush spot on the road

between the German divisional HQ at Archanes and Knossos. He found a location where there was "a sharp twist in the road" that would force any vehicle to slow considerably. The plan was to seize the general under cover of darkness.

They had arranged an elaborate system to warn of the approaching car. An agent called Elias, parked near the German HQ, signalled with "one torch flash" to a scout further down the road. His job was to set off an electric bell at the "half a kilometre of flex" which was the signal for the final scout to flash his torch at the SOE end.

On the night of the kidnap the general appeared at 9.30pm. Major Leigh-Fermor wrote: "Moss and I waved red lamps up and down and the car stopped and we walked towards the two doors, drawing our pistols." The SOE major opened the right door, waved his torch inside and saw the general sitting beside the chauffeur. "He was easily recognised by his tabs, medals and iron crosses."

While he was asking the general for his papers, Captain Moss opened the other door, struck the driver hard with a life preserver, took him by the shoulders and threw him out to the waiting Cretans. Captain Moss then jumped into the driver's seat. Major Leigh-Fermor grabbed the general, handcuffed and bound him, and put him in the back of a car next to three Cretans with sub-machine-guns and knives.

Major Leigh-Fermor says: "I put on the general's hat and sat in his seat beside Moss,



General Kreipe, played by Marius Goring in *Ill Met by Moonlight*, is helped by Patrick Leigh-Fermor (Dirk Bogarde, right) and Billy Moss (David Oxley) as they make their way over the mountains to be picked up by boat

who started up the engine and headed for Heraklion." They drove through 22 road blocks, ignoring sentries who tried to stop them. The general "volunteered his word of honour not to escape".

The SOE men left a sealed letter addressed to the German authorities in Crete announcing the general had been taken prisoner by British officers and that by the time they read the contents, he

would be on his way to Cairo. When they abandoned the car, they left a British overcoat inside as corroborative detail.

The letter to the German authorities ended with the words *Auf baldiges Wiedersehen* (Goodbye, see you soon). They added a PS: "We are very sorry to leave this motor car behind."

The secret document, dated May 16, 1944, recounts how they took the general on an

elaborate trek through the mountains to reach a beach in the south, where arrangements had been made by the SOE's Force-133 Unit for the Special Boat Service to pick them up.

Major Leigh-Fermor was awarded the DSO and Captain Moss the Military Cross. A Foreign Office note attached to Major Leigh-Fermor's report said: "It is really a magnificent exploit."

After the war, Patrick Leigh-Fermor wrote several highly regarded travel books and three volumes of autobiography. But it was Billy Moss, who has died, who wrote the book on which the Michael Powell/Emeric Pressburger film was based.

The story, and many others, are detailed in the 969 declassified files released by the Public Record Office yesterday.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Hamilton asks for more time

The Standards and Privileges Committee of MPs will decide tonight whether to accept a request from Neil Hamilton, the former minister, to delay publication of Sir Gordon Dowd's report into the cash for questions investigation. It is expected on Thursday or early next week, but Mr Hamilton wants a chance to study its findings first.

### Guns surrender

Shooters across Britain are expected to surrender up to 160,000 legally-held larger calibre pistols to police over the next three months, starting today. Ownership of larger handguns will be illegal after October 1.

### Festival reward

The organisers of the Glastonbury Festival offered a £5,000 reward in the hunt for three men who attacked James O'Donnell, 26, from Merseyside, with baseball bats, leaving him critically ill in hospital.

### £15m aid grant

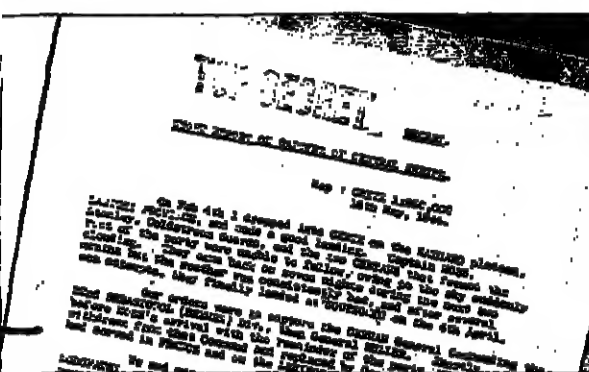
A £15 million education grant to teach one million primary school children in Malawi is to be announced by the Government today. The money will pay for the recruitment of 46,000 primary school teachers.

### Quiz returns

Radio 4 is to revive the 50-year-old *Round Britain Quiz*. It came off the air last year after the death of one of its two chairmen, Gordon Clough, but will return in August with the new presenter Nick Clarke in the role.

### Second thought

One second was added to clocks last night to counter the slowing of the Earth. The "leap second" was the twenty-first since 1972, when steps were taken to ensure atomic clocks matched the time measured by Earth's rotation.



Major Leigh-Fermor's report of the general's kidnap

## Diary entry, June 13, 1943: 'More plotting and conspiracy'

A DIARY by an SOE officer provides an extraordinary insight into the character and temperament of the men whose role in the Second World War was to carry out sabotage operations behind enemy lines and to support resistance movements.

Major David Smiley, who operated covertly in Albania, filled the diary with anecdotes and descriptions that belied the danger he and his fellow officers faced, first from the Italians and then the Germans.

On Saturday April 17, 1943, he wrote of leaving for Albania in a

Halifax aircraft with three other SOE officers, including Lieutenant Colonel Billy McLean. "Left 8.30pm, read *Horse & Hound* on the plane."

When they parachuted at between 2,000ft and 3,000ft, Major Smiley and Lieutenant Colonel McLean nearly collided on the way down. Major Smiley landed "very badly" and tore a muscle. His diary recorded: "Warmly greeted by a guerrilla with a beard who kissed me on both cheeks and lifted me up."

There are frequent references to food. At one location, they were given

a "colossal" dinner. At a place called Polican, he and Lieutenant Colonel McLean went to a wedding "where Bill and I kissed firstly the priest, secondly the Bible, thirdly the bride and fourthly the bridegroom."

By May 17, 1943, Major Smiley was in civilian clothes "like a partisan, with the red star in my hat and giving the Communist salute to whomever I met". He wrote: "I considered this very intra-dig from an officer of His Majesty's Royal Horse Guards!"

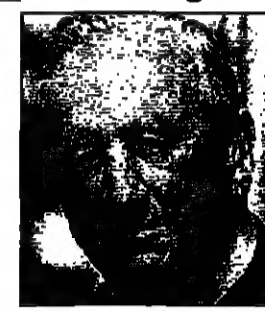
His diary entry for June 13 reads: "More plotting and conspiracy." A

message came through the same day that a wireless operator was being sent to join him. But instead of dropping the man close by, he landed the equivalent of a three-week walk away. By the time the operator arrived, he had lost most of his kit in a fight with the Italians "but he still had the wireless set".

In between laying mines, ambushing enemy troop trucks, training the local partisans and befriending Enver Hoxha, their leader, Major Smiley had time to appreciate the countryside and a few leisure hours. On Thurs-

day, September 8, he wrote: "Went fishing with gellignite but only got two very small trout."

On November 5, 1943, with Albania in the hands of German occupying forces after the capitulation of the Italians, Major Smiley wrote in his diary that Lieutenant Colonel McLean had been shown the graves of 65 Italian officers. They had been "brutally murdered by the Huns". The villagers who had to bury them said: "Their hands had been tied and they had been machine-gunned and bayoneted to death."



Smiley: went fishing with gellignite

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Hamilton asks for more time

Standards and Principles Committee of the House of Commons has asked the Prime Minister to delay the introduction of the new standards for the London Underground until the end of the year.

British Rail has agreed to pay £100 million to the Government to cover the cost of the new standards for the London Underground.

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# Irish Sea radioactive dumping exposed

Environmentalists are demanding an inquiry over waste secretly sunk over two decades in waters used by fishing vessels. Gillian Bowditch reports

THE Government admitted yesterday that radioactive waste was secretly dumped in a busy shipping channel in the Irish Sea in the 1950s and 1960s despite 13 years of official denials. The Government is being urged to hold a public inquiry into the way ministers, MPs and the public were misled.

The Scottish Office confirmed that two tonnes of "low to intermediate-level" radioactive waste were dumped in Beaufort's Dyke, between Scotland and Ireland, in metal drums encased in concrete. The news has angered environmentalists who for the past decade had been repeatedly assured that no radioactive waste was deposited.

Beaufort's Dyke, a 894ft trench, is already the subject of controversy after more than 4,000 phosphorous flares, dumped there in the wake of the Second World War, were washed up on Ayrshire, Clyde and Argyll beaches in the past three years.

The site was a dump for hundreds of thousands of tonnes of munitions - including shells, bombs, landmines, grenades, and rockets - until 1973. Some of the munitions were dropped in shallow waters outside the designated dump.

Yesterday the Scottish Office said there was no threat from the radioactive material, which, according to a spokeswoman, was well within safety guidelines. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, which has been monitoring the Beaufort's Dyke Channel, refused to comment ahead of a parliamentary question expected in the House of Commons today.

But MPs and environmentalists said they were deeply concerned at the news. Alasdair Morgan, Scottish National Party MP for Gallo-

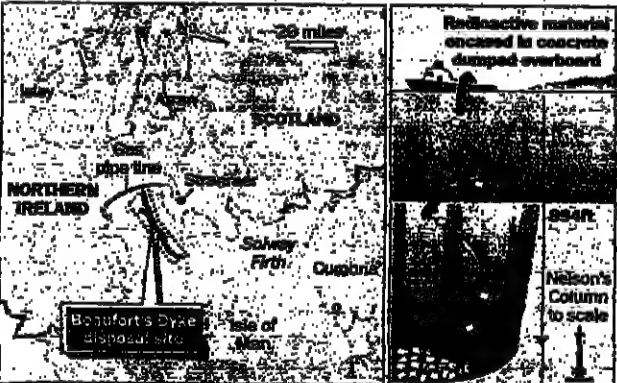
way and Upper Nithsdale, said: "I am horrified by these latest revelations. Three ferry routes cross the site. It is regularly used by fishing vessels and is close to a gas pipeline being built between Scotland and Northern Ireland. Yet, despite the safety, environmental and economic considerations at stake, successive British governments have behaved in an appalling and irresponsible fashion."

Richard Dixon, head of research for Friends of the Earth, said that the waste material dumped in the area had to be brought to the surface and dealt with. "It is unbelievable that you can have two tonnes of radioactive waste sitting in the sea six miles off the coast and the Government claims not to know about it."

A spokeswoman for the Scottish Office said that the government documents detailing the radioactive waste had always been in the Public Records Office at Kew in west London. When asked why they had not been found before, she replied: "We weren't looking in the right place. We did not know they were there. Ministers did not deliberately mislead. They answered the questions in good faith."

The waste is believed to have come from university laboratories and three companies, Babcock and Wilcox, Ferranti and Luminisers. The bulk of it is believed to be glass containers, iodine solution and luminous paint used on the dials of aircraft instruments.

None of the waste is believed to come from the nuclear industry but environmentalists are concerned that some of it has been ingested by plankton and then fish, and could get into the human food chain.



## Admission fuels anger at Britain

By AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Irish reacted with fury to the British admission that radioactive material was dumped in the Irish Sea.

Politicians and anti-nuclear groups said the announcement confirmed their long-held belief that the British Government was not telling the truth about the nuclear industry.

Michael Woods, the Marine Minister, expressed "deep concern" at the revelations. He demanded that full information be provided as "firm assurances had been given in the past that no radioactive material had been dumped".

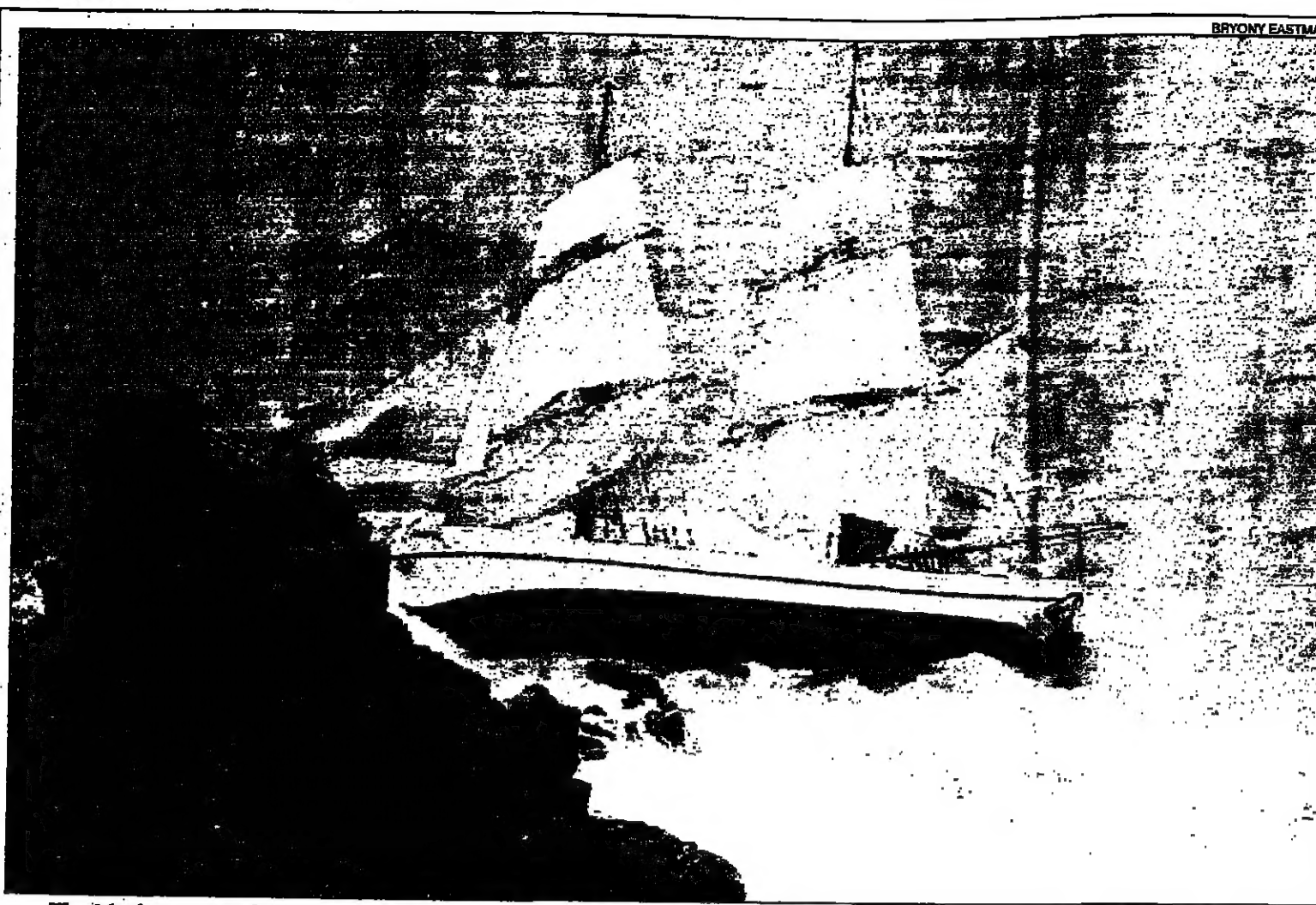
In recent years the campaign for action against the British nuclear industry - and Sellafield in particular - has grown. Four residents of Dundalk, on the East Coast, are trying to close down Sellafield by suing British

Nuclear Fuels for endangering the lives of Irish people.

James McGuill, solicitor for the four, said that yesterday's disclosures would strengthen their case.

He added: "The fact that this information has now emerged shows the deliberate suppression of information and misinformation carried out for years in a very reckless manner by the British authorities. It shows that you simply cannot trust the British Government and BNFL."

John Gormley, one of the two Green Party MPs in the Dail, accused the British authorities of lying to the British and Irish people. He said: "They have said that there was no real dumping place except in the Atlantic. Now they are saying it is harmless. How can we believe these people?"



The Maria Asumpta holed and on the rocks off the north coast of Cornwall in May 1995. Three crew members died in the incident

## Tallship skipper on death charges



By TIM JONES

THE owner and skipper of what is believed to have been the world's oldest working square-rigged sailing vessel went on trial yesterday charged with the manslaughter of three crew members.

Mark Litchfield, 56, was among 11 survivors when the 137-year-old tallship Maria Asumpta was wrecked as it approached Padstow, off the north coast of Cornwall, in May 1995. He denies that his gross negligence was a substantial cause of the deaths.

Anne Taylor, 50, from Wallingford, Oxfordshire, Emily MacFarlane, 19, from Felixstowe, and John Shannon, 24, from Queensland, were lost in the incident. Mr Litchfield, from Boxley, Kent, pleaded not guilty to manslaughter at an earlier hearing, Exeter Crown Court was told.

The charge alleges that, as the ship's master and owner, he owed a duty of reasonable care to those who sailed on it. The trial continues.



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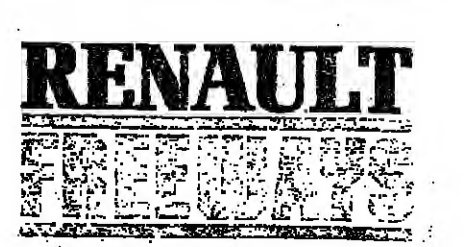
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Monthly Repayments	£237.92 x 24
Total Credit Price	£11,420.00

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Deposit	£5,710.00
Monthly Repayments	£156.61 x 36
Total Credit Price	£11,420.00



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# Failure in basic school lessons haunts adult underclass for life

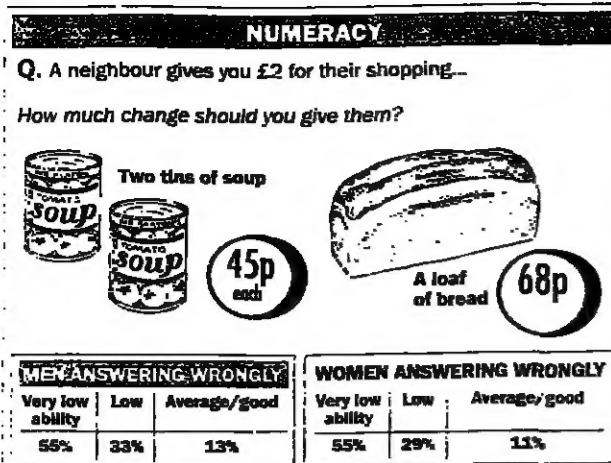
By JOHN O'LEARY  
EDUCATION EDITOR

LOW levels of literacy and numeracy have a damaging impact on almost every aspect of adult life, according to a survey published yesterday, which offers evidence of a developing underclass.

Tests and interviews with hundreds of people born in a single week in 1958 graphically illustrated the handicap of educational underachievement. The effects were seen in unemployment, family breakdown, low incomes, depression and social inactivity.

Those who left school at 16 with poor basic skills had been employed for up to four years less than good readers by the time they reached 37, Professor John Bynner, of City University, who carried out the research, said that today's unqualified teenagers would face even greater problems because the supply of manual jobs had dried up.

Almost one in five of the 1,700 people interviewed for yesterday's report had poor literacy skills and almost half

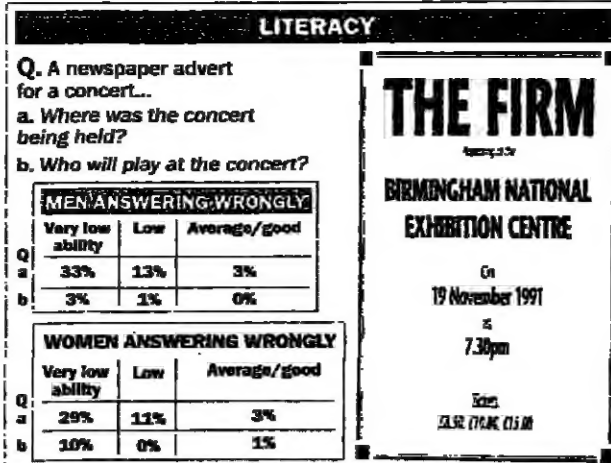


struggled with numeracy, a proportion in line with other surveys for the Basic Skills Agency. Some could not read aloud from a child's book, and most found difficulty in following written instructions.

Poor readers were twice as likely to be on a low wage and four times as likely to live in a household where neither partner worked. Women in this position were five times as

likely to be classified as depressed, while both sexes tended to feel they had no control over their lives, and to be less trusting of others.

Those with low literacy and numeracy skills were seldom involved in any community organisation and much less likely than others to have voted in a general election. There had been no improvement in the level of interview-



ees reporting problems since the sample was surveyed at the age of 21.

Alan Wells, the agency's director, said: "The results emphasise the dangers we face of developing an underclass of excluded people, out of work, increasingly depressed and often labelled by themselves as failures. There is a vicious circle of marginalisation, with the dice loaded

against these people and their families."

Last year, almost half of 11-year-olds left primary school without reaching the expected level in English and mathematics. Mr Wells welcomed ministers' commitment to improving basic skills. He said, however, that imaginative programmes were needed, possibly including incentives for participating, if the prob-

lems were not to persist in the adult population.

Only 300,000 people out of more than 5 million thought to have poor basic skills take remedial courses each year. Mr Wells said that a "major catch-up initiative" would benefit society as well as the individuals concerned.

"It is not just that 20 per cent have been getting nothing out of education in the last five years, but maybe 50 years," he said. "The long tail of underachievement is something we have always had."

The survey is part of the National Child Development Study, which has tracked 17,000 people at five-yearly intervals since 1958. The current study involved eight reading and nine mathematical tests of varying difficulty. They included the ability to use a Yellow Pages directory to find a plumber and calculating the floorspace of a room.

It doesn't get any better (£6.50 plus p & p). Basic Skills Agency, Commonwealth House, 1-19 New Oxford Street, London, WC1A 1NU



Michael Hickey leaving court after admitting theft

## Bridgewater Four man is fined £200 for stealing ring

By ADRIAN LEE

ONE of the men convicted of killing the newspaper boy Carl Bridgewater stole a diamond ring while on bail awaiting the result of his appeal, a court was told yesterday.

Michael Hickey's crime was blamed on the extreme difficulty he had had coming to terms with his release from prison after 18 years. He was fined £200 at Birmingham Magistrates' Court, where he admitted theft. A charge of carrying an offensive weapon was dismissed after the prosecution offered no evidence.

Jim Nichol, solicitor for Hickey, 35, said: "There is a sense of deep despair which pervades his life, where he often finds himself in tears." He trusted "precisely nobody" and the joy of his release in February, when he kissed the ground outside the Court of Appeal, had not continued.

"That looked good, but the reality is considerably different," Mr Nichol said. Hickey had, so far, declined offers of help, including one from John McCarthy, the former Beirut hostage, and had not signed on for social security benefit. After the hearing, Hickey's mother, Ann Whelan, said: "He has got enormous hurdles in his way: he looked at life through mesh and bars for

nearly two decades. When you're in prison for something you didn't do, every day is torture. And we have to remember he went in as a teenager and he's got to learn to be an adult."

"He's just very sad at the moment. He did this to demonstrate that he's been thrown out without money. He didn't need to do it; he's got us, he's got friends."

The court was told that Hickey, of Kidderminster, Hereford and Worcester, was shown an 18-carat solitaire ring at a jeweller's in Birmingham. He tried it on, then ran from the shop but was chased and caught.

Tony Baker, for the prosecution, said Hickey had been with a group of men who decided to go shoplifting on June 7. "He said he would have given the ring to the lads to sell for him, and they would have gone for a drink together," Hickey was ordered to pay £55 costs.

On May the Court of Appeal reserved judgment on the appeal by Hickey and the two other surviving members of the Bridgewater Four. The High Court was told that the appeal was likely to succeed. Carl Bridgewater was shot when he interrupted a burglary in 1978.

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# Darts stars let freedom go to their stomachs

Damian Whitworth on a bull's eye in the courts.

AT THREE minutes past 11 yesterday morning, the George pub across the Strand from the Royal Courts of Justice was full. It is not usually such a squeeze so soon after opening time but some of the world's top darts players, with their beer bellies and associated hangers-on, were out in force after hitting the bull's eye in a legal fight to be able to compete worldwide.

Fourteen players, including Eric "the crafty Cockney" Bristow, Dennis "the menace" Priestley, "Big" Cliff Lazarenko and their world champion Phil Taylor, had sued the British Darts Organisation, claiming it had an unfair monopoly on events.

When they broke away from the BDO in 1993 and formed their own organisation, the World Darts Council, they were banned from all BDO competitions. This, they ar-

gued, had made them pariahs, unable to earn a living from the game. After days of out-of-court negotiations, Andrew Hochhauser, QC, representing the players, told Mr Justice Potts that a compromise had been reached for "peaceful co-existence".

The WDC dropped its claim for damages and changed its name to the Professional Darts Council. In return, both sides agreed that players could participate in all competitions, whoever ran them, and take part in exhibition matches and promote and endorse darts products.

Eric Bristow, the former world champion and one of the best-known faces in the game, led the stampede to the pub afterwards. "This is a great day for the sport of darts," he said, knocking back a pint of Guinness.

The ban has been lifted.

The BDO and the WDC have made their peace. For the first time in four years I am free to play darts in competitions all over the world. The dark days are over — that must be good news for everyone.

For example, he said, the lifting of the ban on PDC players meant that he could now take part in exhibition matches with amateur pub and club players who, as BDO members, had been barred from competing with him.

This action was never about money but about our freedom to play who we liked on a local or international level, and where we liked.

The George did not have a darts board but the players had taken their own. Bristow expressed a keenness to challenge his QC, Mr Hochhauser, to a game.

A chant of "Hochy on the oche" went up but sadly the



Defying image-makers who tried to remove their pint glasses, from left, Peter Evison, Eric Bristow, Dennis Priestley and Phil Taylor

silk, who had apparently never played darts before, failed to materialise and it was left to more expansive girths to take up the challenge.

A PR man for the new PDC tried at one point to remove the pint glasses from the

hands of the players as they posed for photographers. It was not the right image anymore, he murmured.

He was very swiftly and clearly put in his place. "What do you mean, we don't drink any more?" Bristow asked.

Absent from the party was Olly Croft, general secretary of the BDO and the chief power behind the organisation for many years.

Outside the court he said: "I am not disappointed at the result — I'm pleased. But it's a

shame this was not done years ago. We tried for months to get meetings but nothing got resolved."

There will continue to be two world championships. Because of the time overlap, players will not be able to

participate in both. Mr Croft said: "There will still be two world championships but the difference is that our champion will be champion of half a million players throughout the world. Theirs will be champion of 20-odd."

## Policeman is accused of sex and cash plot

By RICHARD DUCE

A POLICE sergeant ran an extortion racket from a London police station, blackmailing prostitutes into giving him money and sex in a case that read like a bestseller, a court was told yesterday.

Linda Dobbs, for the prosecution, told Kingston Crown Court: "This case is about sex, blackmail and corruption. You may think it has all the ingredients for a place at the top of the fictional bestseller list. But we are dealing with real life."

She said that Ian Vale, 37, convinced two prostitutes, Shirley Campbell and a woman known only as Miss L, that he was powerful enough to pull strings with the vice squad in return for thousands of pounds. He could offer them protection from prosecution and police raids. In fact he had no such connections, Miss Dobbs said, and was responsible for police supervision of the Earls Court exhibition centre. He had eventually been trapped when police taped him threatening one of the women.

Sergeant Vale had singled out his first victim, Mrs Campbell, in March 1993 after

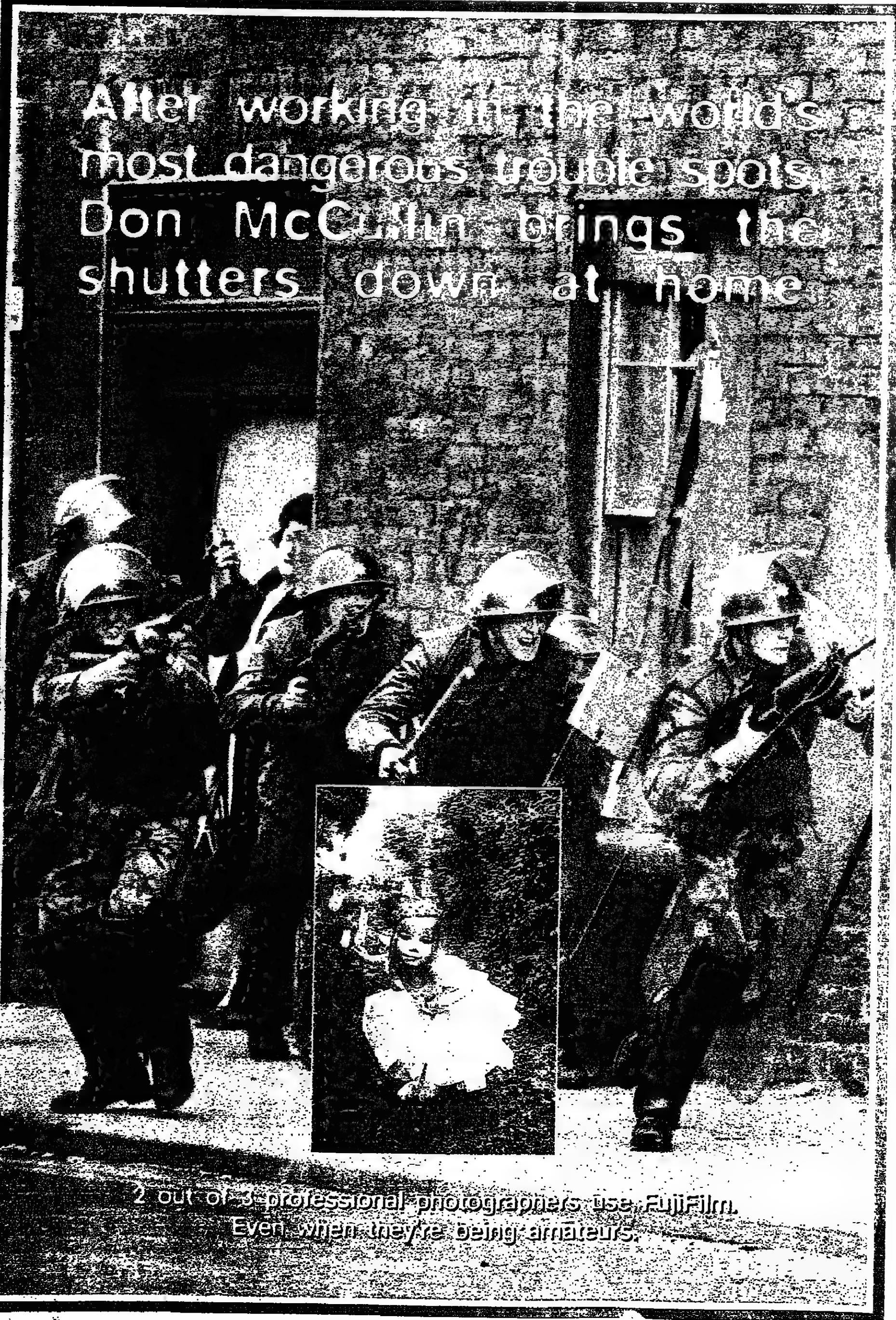
she was arrested at a house in Earls Court that neighbours had complained was being used as a brothel. After she was bailed, he had asked if she was interested in paying £1,000 a month and having regular sex with him as insurance against future raids. She had refused and Sergeant Vale had given her 48 hours to leave the property. He had no right or authority to do that, Miss Dobbs said.

Sergeant Vale was said to have told Mrs Campbell to get new and sexual and told her she would be prosecuted for running a brothel unless she paid him £5,000 and had sex with him. In June 1993, Mrs Campbell had handed over the money in a room at Kensington police station.

In March 1994, Miss Dobbs said, Sergeant Vale had told his second victim, Miss L, that in return for £300 a month, he would ensure protection for her. She had called in the police.

Sergeant Vale, of Claygate, Surrey, denies eight charges involving blackmail, corruption and the procurement of sexual intercourse by threats. The trial continues.

## After working in the world's most dangerous trouble spots, Don McClain brings the shutters down at home



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## Power station may be reopened to burn BSE cows

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

A REDUNDANT power station may be used to burn hundreds of thousands of tonnes of BSE-infected carcasses, turning them into electricity, Jack Cunningham, the Minister of Agriculture, said that energy companies had wanted to charge exorbitant sums for the job.

Buying or leasing a power station would be a way of recouping some of the huge costs of the "scandalous" mismanagement by the previous Tory administration of the BSE crisis, he said.

Speaking after opening the annual Royal Agricultural Show at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, Dr Cunningham said that the companies' proposed charges had been "off the scale". "One of the alternatives I have asked should be examined is whether we, the ministry, should not acquire a 'redundant power station ourselves'."

Last week the Environment

### BEEF BAN

Burger King, Britain's second biggest burger chain, may follow McDonald's in ending a 15-month ban on British beef. David Williams, the company's managing director for Europe, the Middle East and Africa, is to meet the Agriculture Minister this afternoon to discuss the situation.

Agency said that cattle waste could be burnt alongside coal in power stations with negligible risk to public health. The chances of any person contracting CJD, the human equivalent of BSE, from exposure to power station emissions would be as low as one in 30,000 million, it said.

The Government is estimated to be spending more than £250,000 a week on storing 220,000 tonnes of meat and bone meal and 122,000 tonnes

of tallow at sites around the country. Several thousand more tonnes are added every week. The waste comes from slaughtering 1.5 million cattle older than 30 months since May of last year.

Older animals are regarded as more likely to be harbouring BSE. The peak of the slaughter has passed, as most farms have got rid of their backlog of older animals. But about 15,000 cattle, mainly elderly dairy cows, are still being culled every week.

Jeff Rooker, the Food Safety Minister, said there were several redundant coal-fired power stations that might be available. "If the waste is burnt at 850 degrees centigrade, the resulting ash is safe and can be disposed of in landfill sites," he said.

Earlier Sir David Naish, president of the National Farmers' Union, said he was outraged by the Government's decision to cut farmers' compensation for culling from £500 to £320 an animal.



Joshua Quigley and his mother Zoey, who said the hospital failed to explain how his delivery had damaged his scalp

## Hair-loss boy sues hospital over birth

By FRANCES GUN

A BOY aged two has won legal aid to sue an NHS trust after his birth by a method of delivery known as ventouse extraction left him partially bald.

Joshua Quigley of Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, can only grow tufts of hair on part of his scalp after it was scarred by the increasingly common technique. A ventouse cap, which acts like a sink plunger, was used by staff at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital to deliver him.

It is alleged that the process ripped a layer of skin, containing hair follicles, from Joshua's head. Specialists have said it may never be possible for him to grow hair.

His mother, Zoey, said: "I think the worst thing for me was being sent away from Gloucestershire Royal Hospital without an explanation or apology."

## Synod urged to put prayer before politics

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Church of England's parliament should pray more and stop trying to ape the antics of MPs, according to a review published yesterday.

The review, chaired by Lord Bridge of Harwich, concludes that the General Synod is confrontational and divisive. It says that the members should pause for prayer regularly during debates and abandon procedures that mirror Westminster, such as the call of "Divide" before votes are taken.

Such procedures give a misleading impression that Church government is about democracy, which it is not, the report says. Lord Bridge also recommends that the synod be reduced in size by about one third, to make it more cost-effective.

The synod, like the Commons elected for a five-year term, opens with a service at Westminster Abbey attended by the Queen. The triennial debates normally begin with prayers and there is a ten-minute act of worship at the start of each day.

There have been occasional unscheduled pauses for prayer, such as before the final approval of the ordination of women in November 1992.

Such pauses, which need not only precede voting, serve as a reminder that the shared

task of synod is to wait on God," the report says. "We believe that prayer and spirituality should be a thread running through the whole life of the synod."

The report suggests that the interest group system, which mirrors the party system in Parliament, heightens the scope for dissension at the synod. "There is nothing inherently un-Christian about deciding matters by vote, although the irony of the legal adviser heralding the General Synod's moment of decision with the instruction to 'divide' has not escaped us." It is suggested that when a vote is taken, it would be more appropriate for members to be urged to "Vote".

The recommendations will be debated by the synod and are unlikely to be introduced before 2005 if accepted.

The Bishop of Southwark, the Right Rev Roy Williams, is to retire at the end of the year. The bishop, who has had heart problems, will leave just after his 65th birthday.

Previously Bishop of Bradford, he is from the evangelical wing of the Church. He moved to Southwark in 1991 and was at the centre of controversy over the cathedral's decision to host a service for the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement last year.

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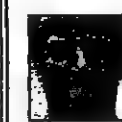
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## Into the future with new heart



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

THE 71-year-old man who has become Britain's oldest heart transplant patient has been discharged from Harefield Hospital and is already fit enough to attend outpatients.

When Professor Christian Barnard performed the first heart transplant in 1969 he chose an elderly man with severe heart failure. The procedure was experimental but since the patient had little chance of surviving more than a week without surgery he seemed ideal.

Now, with pressure on scarce surgical resources, younger people with a potentially longer lifespan and usually heavier family commitments would seem the more suitable patients.

Heart transplantation has become so efficient that it is an accepted treatment for some cases in which the heart is in gross failure. By operating a very strict selection system based on the patient's general health and by achieving good crossmatching, about 90 per cent of patients who have a heart transplant survive for at least a year and 70 per cent are fit enough to return to work.

Donor hearts are taken from younger people and

since they have to be in optimal condition, are in even shorter supply than other organs for transplantation. The recipient needs to be fit apart from his heart disease, and in particular needs to be free of lung troubles and have well-functioning kidneys.

The scarcity of donor hearts means it is unlikely that many people of 71 satisfy the criteria. The Harefield pensioner was lucky because he was the only person on the hospital's transplant waiting list who had the same rare tissue as the donor.

Even after discharge from hospital the patient's troubles are not over. The coronary blood vessels in a transplanted heart suffer from accelerated ageing, graft atherosclerosis, which in a quarter of cases can cause serious complications.

As with all transplants there is the danger of rejection. The drugs used to suppress rejection also suppress the body's immune system so the patient becomes susceptible to infection and malignant disease.

The transplanted heart will enable the patient, while viable, to live for at least a year and 70 per cent are fit enough to return to work. Donor hearts are taken from younger people and

مكتبة ابن الأثير



Hair-loss boy sues hospital over birth

urged prayer politics

uture heart

# Customs cracks £65m drug connection

Stewart Tendler reports on a gang of criminals whose cocaine and cannabis smuggling stretched through Gibraltar to South America

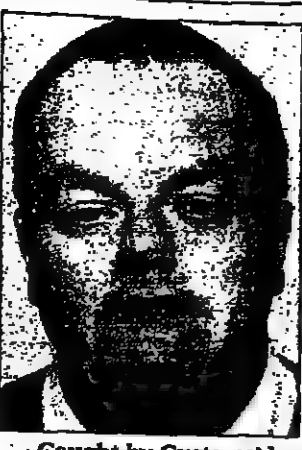
THE longest surveillance operation ever mounted by British Customs finally broke cover yesterday. As 13 people faced sentence after a series of trials, a legal black-out ended for the details of the 18-month investigation codenamed Stealer, which netted cocaine worth £57 million, cannabis worth another £8 million, and leading members of the south London underworld.

The smugglers' drug ring operated on three continents and bought them a luxury lifestyle including a convertible Mercedes and a £40,000 yacht. A senior investigator said: "Stealer has shown that we can get at the main players, not just the middle men and their associates. By acting on the evidence we can take out the big boys as well."

The gang behind the ring included Anthony White, acquitted 13 years ago of taking part in the £26 million Brink's-Mat bullion robbery. He could now face life imprisonment.

Yesterday a court order banning reporting on a series of inter-linked cases over the past two years was lifted. Seven defendants will be sentenced at the end of this week at Bristol Crown Court, and another six next week. Overall, Stealer was responsible for 44 arrests and six trials in Britain, Spain and France.

Launched in 1993, Operation Stealer targeted the south London underworld which Customs officers believed played a big role in illegal drug supplies. A team of up to 30 officers began long-term close surveillance on White



Caught by Customs' longest surveillance: above, Togher, left, and White. Below, Doran and Short

and his lieutenant, John Short. They also watched Brian Doran, a criminal from Glasgow, when he returned from Colombia near the end of 1993 to make arrangements to smuggle in major consignments. He worked from luxury London hotels, including the exclusive Lanesborough

and was joined by fellow Scot Kenneth Togher.

Customs officers were watching as the ring leaders met in clubs, pubs, London Zoo and the Tate Gallery. In September 1993, Togher's luggage was secretly searched while he was in transit between London and Glasgow.

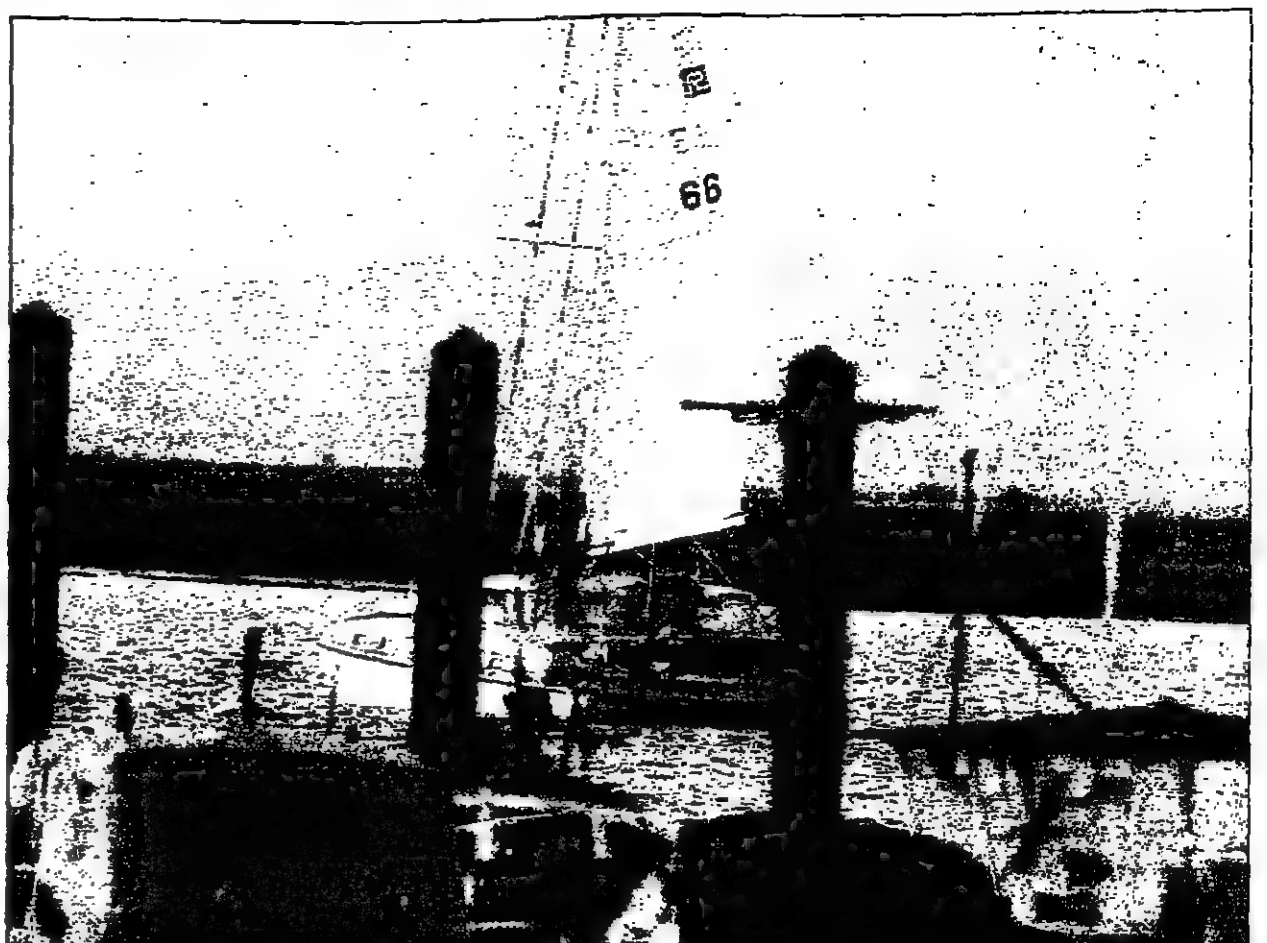
he had £250,000 in two suitcases. In a secret visit to Doran's room at the Lanesborough, officers found £10,000 and photographed personal documents, including bank transfers to Colombia involving false names.

The first arrests came in February 1994 after one of the gang was trailed to Madrid. Spanish authorities found 35 kg of cocaine in luggage and 100 kg of cannabis resin in air conditioning ducts.

In September, Customs officers followed a VW camper van that White had bought. It was driven to Dover and taken across the Channel. In France the number plates were put on another camper that had arrived in France from Spain. That camper was loaded with drink to give the appearance of returning from a "booze run". When the camper arrived in Dover, Customs officers found 22 kg of cocaine concealed under a false floor.

Customs investigators were also watching as a lorry that had travelled from Gibraltar via Portsmouth was driven into the Fleet services on the M3. Investigators moved in as the spare tyre was being manhandled and found cannabis worth £250,000 hidden inside.

Later that day White was arrested in southeast London. His mobile telephone showed he was controlling operations and revealed calls linked to the Pevensey Bay, East Sussex, smuggling. As the operation continued, a British pilot who took off from Stapleford Abbots, Essex, was arrested at



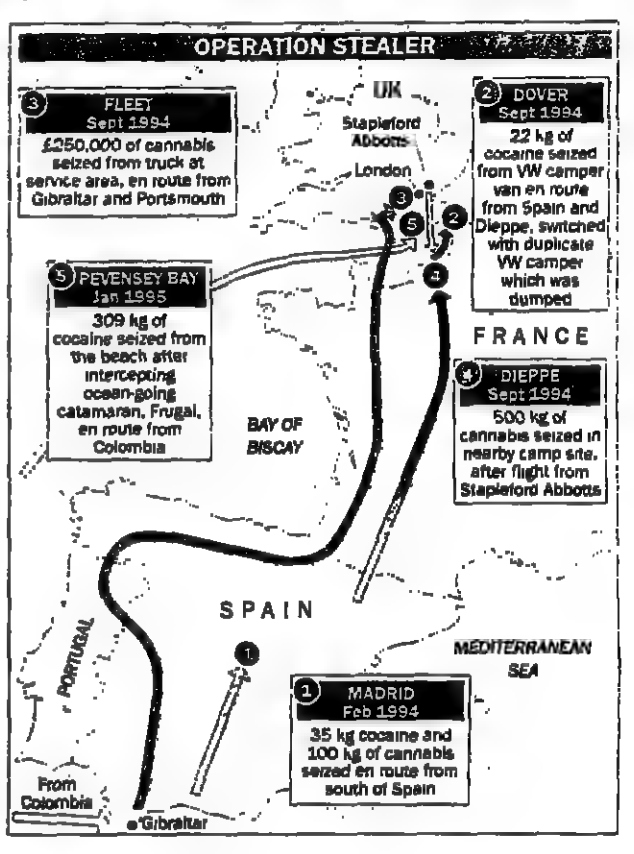
The ocean-going catamaran *Frugal* under sail: contrary to its name, it carried cocaine worth £37 million

an airfield near Dieppe. Police seized 500 kg of cannabis in a camper van at a campsite near by.

Early in 1995 the ocean-going catamaran *Frugal* was tracked as it sailed into Pevensey Bay, East Sussex, carrying a cargo of Colombian cocaine worth £37 million, which was off-loaded. Six plastic-wrapped bundles

weighing a total of 309 kg were found on the beach.

Those convicted in the trials included White, Short, Doran, and Togher. Madeleine Mullin, a one-time actress who once had a bit part in the Scottish detective series *Taggart* and who later married Togher, was acquitted of any part in the drug-smuggling conspiracy.



## London robbers graduated to narcotics

LEADERS of the drugs network were well-known to investigators. Two were armed robbers who had followed a trend among leading London criminals to graduate into the drugs world.

Anthony White had been accused in 1984 of taking part in the £26 million Brink's-Mat gold bullion robbery at Heathrow Airport. Although he was acquitted at the Old Bailey, two years ago loss adjusters acting for the insurers took White to the High Court and won a ruling that he had committed the robbery.

Mr Justice Rimmer decided that White's acquittal did not mean that

the jurors at his Old Bailey trial were satisfied that he was innocent but only that they were not satisfied that he was guilty according to criminal standards of proof.

The judge said that White was a "dishonest man with an appalling criminal record" who had come into substantial wealth after his acquittal. At the time of the Brink's-Mat robbery, White was living in a council flat on benefit.

He later spent £219,000 on new homes, refurbished one house at a cost of £200,000 and bought a villa in Spain. The judge ordered White to pay

back £26 million plus £2 million in compensation and his wife, Margaret, was ordered to pay back another £1 million.

But lawyers for the loss adjusters knew they had won an empty victory. White was under arrest as part of Operation Stealer and all his assets had been frozen. There was no sign of the millions and the lawyers are still trying to find what happened to White's cash.

Once part of the network of heavyweight armed robbers operating from southeast London, White graduated like other top criminals into the drugs world. In 1993 he was acqui-

ted of being involved in cannabis smuggling. Customs officers in Operation Stealer were sure that he was still at work as financier and fixer behind drugs deals.

His right-hand man, John Short, was another armed robber who also turned to drugs. Now 58, he was jailed in 1978 for holding up a bank in west London. He was also the centre of investigations over the supply of ponies for the American sport of trotting.

Both relied on Brian Doran, 52, who once ran a travel agency in Glasgow. He fled from Scotland in 1982 after being accused of smug-

gling cocaine, and set up a bar in Marbella. In Spain he was linked to a plot to smuggle cannabis worth £3 million from Morocco to Britain. A ton of drugs was found ready packed hidden in a villa on the Costa del Sol. Doran fled to Holland but was eventually sent back to Scotland where he was jailed on passport offences.

Eventually he went to live in Colombia and left there in 1993. He had connections among South American cartels to provide drugs, and money was no object. When he was arrested, Doran was carrying a bearer bond worth £1.6 million.

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# Euro emerges as bargaining chip in haggling over EU expansion

FROM CHARLES BRENNER  
IN BRUSSELS

EXHAUSTED from the laborious birth of the Amsterdam treaty, the European Union embarks today on another stressful countdown. Under the new presidency of Luxembourg, the 15 begin the long and potentially brutal business of reforming their spending and preparing to embrace new members from the former communist bloc.

The starting gun for expansion

and the budget battle comes on July 16 when the Brussels Commission issues its verdict on the membership credentials of ten eastern European states and Cyprus and Turkey, all far poorer than any of the existing 15. Entry negotiations with a first wave must start by the end of the year.

Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Cyprus are likely to be called first to the table, with the possibility of Estonia and Slovenia joining them. The approach of new members is intensifying re-

sistance from Spain and other southern states against any deal that cuts their own supply of generous EU regional subsidies. French, German and British farmers fear for their farm aid and the smaller EU states are fighting a rearguard battle to preserve their voting power in a much-enlarged union. A new EU budget machine must be ready in 1999.

The EU could do without a two-year wrangle over the two funds that dominate its spending. The

failure at Amsterdam to reform the EU decision-making machinery for enlargement has only added to the malaise as the 15 stagger forward in the long march towards monetary union.

Over the past month, the monetary picture has tumbled out of its old frame as the new French Socialist Government has thrown out the rule book prescribed by the Germans and abandoned the strict budget test, set out at Maastricht, for launching the euro. At the same time, a weak-

ened Helmut Kohl, under heavy domestic pressure, is wavering in his own crusade for the single currency and a deeper union.

A Brussels axiom holds that without monetary union, the big continental states will refuse to accept new members into a bigger EU. While all pay lip service to the imperative of "bringing the new democracies into the European family", they are worried that without the binding force of the euro, the EU would turn into a big free-trading area of the type

desired by British Conservatives. The crossover between the euro and a bigger union is emerging as Spain has begun signalling that it could block spending reform and enlargement without a guarantee of membership of the single currency. The first euro members are to be picked next May.

The consensus still holds that so much political capital is invested in the scheme that monetary union will go ahead on schedule on January 1, 1999. Jean-Claude Juncker, 42, the Christian Demo-

crat Prime Minister of Luxembourg, who takes over the presidency from the Dutch today, insists that delay would spell catastrophe.

To help things along, Mr Juncker is suggesting a scheme that would fix the exchange rates of national currencies to the euro. A test for Mr Juncker, whose tiny country is the only EU member to pass the Maastricht monetary test, is a special Luxembourg summit in the autumn which could shape the fate of the euro.

## Russian military warns Yeltsin of mutiny over cuts

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

THE Russian military establishment has given President Yeltsin a warning that he faces the forces for nearly two centuries if he goes ahead with unpopular reforms to slash the number of men in uniform.

Threatened with the loss of 600,000 troops under plans currently being drawn up by General Igor Sergeev, the newly-appointed Defence Minister, several retired generals have urged serving officers to "take the matter into their own hands".

The issue came to the surface last week when General Lev Rokhlin, a popular former combat officer, who now heads the parliamentary defence committee, issued a damning seven-page open letter to Mr Yeltsin blaming him for the destruction of the armed forces.

General Rokhlin, who commanded Russian troops during the bloody capture of Grozny, the Chechen capital, before running for parliament in a pro-Yeltsin faction, said he had been forced to act to prevent the collapse of the armed forces.

"You fooled the nation and the military, failing to fulfil your pre-election promises," said General Rokhlin, whose outburst may cost him his position in the Our Home is Russia faction. "You have destroyed the armed forces to destruction."

In the letter, General Rokhlin predicted that if the military was weakened any further, Russia would lose control of the Far East and Siberia in the next century. He said: "Russia's future as a nuclear power was also under threat and blamed Mr Yeltsin personally for the disastrous military campaign in Chechnya."

By far his most inflammatory remarks were addressed to serving officers. He advised them to mobilise and issue the

Kremlin with demands. "Unlike, elect your leaders and demand that your legitimate rights be exercised," he said. "Do not hope that someone else will do this for you. Our unity in resisting the disintegration of the army is the guarantee of our success."

Not surprisingly, the comments sent a chill through the Kremlin. Although there has not been a military insurrection since the Decembrist uprising of 1825, the present lamentable state of the armed forces could provide a fertile ground for mutiny.

General Sergeev, whose plans to reduce the armed forces from 1.8 million to 1.2 million must be completed by July 25, on Sunday denounced the letter as incitement "to revolt".

"We now have to choose between a large but insufficiently capable army, or a

smaller but combat-ready army," he said, defending his plans, which propose radical measures such as merging the army and navy. "I think the choice is clear."

However, the military establishment has yet to be persuaded. Most commentators believe that General Rokhlin was prompted to take action at the behest of powerful senior officers in the military, who may be among the first to be sacked under the reform plan.

Top figures in politics and the military have been eager to line up alongside General Rokhlin. He has won the backing of General Aleksandr Lebed, the former paratrooper and presidential candidate, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the ultra-nationalist leader, and leading communists, like Viktor Ilyukhin, the chairman of the parliamentary security committee.

"Rokhlin is right, the army is going to pieces," General Lebed said. "This is clear even to those who are far from the army. It is clear that the Commander-in-Chief (Yeltsin) is not competent."

Although in the past there has been talk of rebellion in the armed forces, there is so far no evidence of any serious conspiracy, despite unpaid wages, low morale, and a sharp rise in the number of suicides among both soldiers and officers.

Nevertheless, the Kremlin cannot afford to be complacent after the rabble-rousing remarks by General Rokhlin. □ Promise to pay: Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, vowed to press ahead with military reform. He told military academy graduates at a Kremlin ceremony that he had been instructed by President Yeltsin to pay all debts to the forces over the next two months. He did not say where the money was coming from.



Boris Yeltsin's daughter, Tatiana, 37, above, long seen as the power behind the Russian throne, has been officially appointed as an adviser to her father (Robin Lodge writes). She is to be responsible for advising the President on his image. For the past year she has held virtual control over access to her father, angering advisers and political rivals.



Hikers in Navacerrada, near Madrid, braving a stiff breeze and freezing winds yesterday in freak conditions that have seen a sudden temperature drop turn the usually blistering Spanish summer into snow-clad winter

## Secularist coalition takes over in Turkey

FROM ANDREW FINKEL  
IN ISTANBUL

THE first Islamist Prime Minister of Turkey, Necmettin Erbakan, went back into opposition yesterday and the military returned to its barracks after President Demirel approved a new coalition led by Mesut Yilmaz, the Motherland Party leader.

Announcing his Cabinet, Mr Yilmaz said his new secularist Government was "proof that the country could solve its problems through democracy and parliament". He was referring to the threat of military intervention after chiefs of staff issued an ultimatum to the previous Government that it cease to encourage the drift towards radical Islam.

Mr Erbakan quit on June 18 but was hoping to keep his Welfare Party in office by transferring his job to his coalition partner, Tansu Ciller, of the True Path Party. This tactic was frustrated when President Demirel chose Mr Yilmaz to form the new Government.

While the new administration is bound to reassure the military, it remains debatable whether it can provide a long-term solution to the nation's chronic political instability. Many see one of its first tasks as amending the electoral system of proportional representation. A system of transferable votes, some analysts believe, would neuter the Welfare Party, which came first in a December 1995 election despite receiving fewer than 22 per cent of votes.

## Fraud trial defendant blames bankers

FROM DEBORAH COLCUTT  
IN FRANKFURT

GERMANY'S "construction king", Jürgen Schneider, who has gone on trial accused of multimillion-pound credit fraud, looks determined to drag down with him some of the country's most reputable banks and credit institutes.

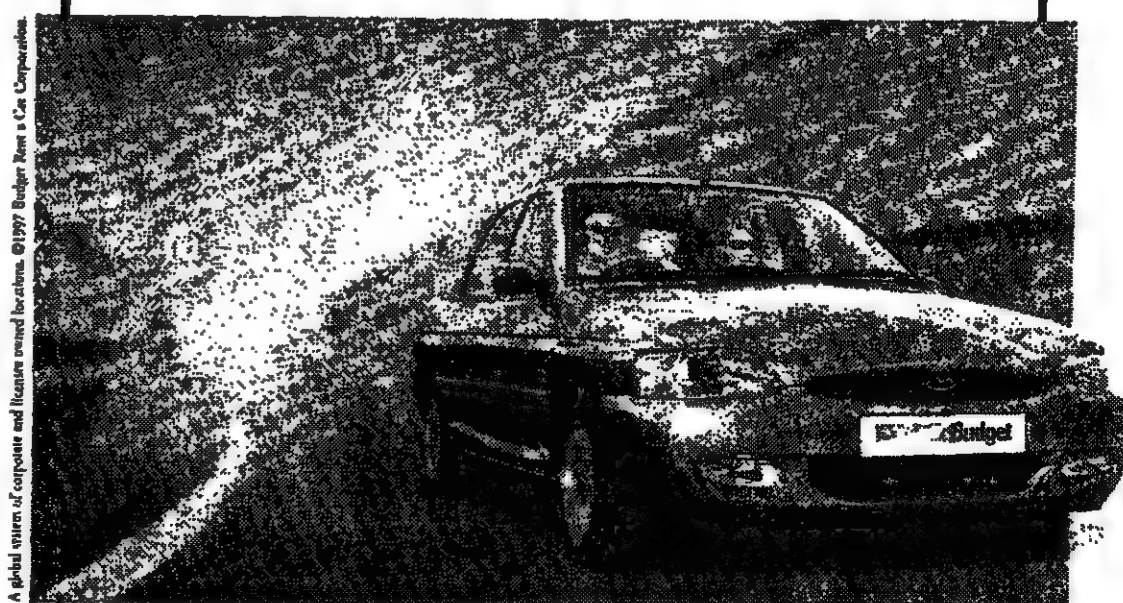
In an emotional speech at the start of his trial in Frankfurt yesterday, he blamed his former creditors for the collapse of Germany's biggest property development empire with the loss of thousands of jobs. "They decided, in a spectacular manner, to criminalise me and place the burden of guilt singularly and exclusively on my shoulders."

Herr Schneider told the financial capital's Superior Court. In a surprise statement, Dieter Haile, the chief prosecutor, also indicated that the banks involved, including Deutsche Bank, Germany's largest, must share responsibility for the bankruptcy of Herr Schneider's company.

Herr Schneider, 63, specialised in inner-city development, favouring grand old buildings, and was one of the first to cash in on the construction boom caused by the fall of the Berlin Wall.

When he and his wife, Claudia, suddenly fled Germany in April 1994 after the company was forced into bankruptcy, they left debts of around £2 billion to more than 1,600 creditors, including banks, building suppliers and sub-contractors. The couple remained at large for 13 months. Herr Schneider faces a maximum 15-year sentence if found guilty.

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# Berisha concedes election defeat

Albanian Socialist says victory will help curb militias

FROM TOM WALKER IN TIRANA

PRESIDENT Berisha of Albania yesterday accepted his Democratic Party's overwhelming defeat by its Socialist rivals, whose leader Fatos Nano looks certain to become the new head of state.

Mr Berisha, looking tired and drawn, made a brief appearance on state television yesterday afternoon. He asked his supporters to "treat the people's verdict with courage and dignity".

Observers from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe deemed Sunday's general election "adequate and acceptable".

There were no scenes of rioting on the streets of Tirana, however. Mr Nano, a bearded and studious academic, appealed to his party not to inflame an already tense situation.

From Mr Berisha's presidential guard came the ominous sound of heavy gunfire.

Whether Mr Berisha will resign is unclear. Linda Isani, his personal assistant, said he would only consider doing so once the results — which she said the Socialists had exaggerated — had been finalised. "He's very tired," she said. "But he's in perfect shape. He's very strong."

referendum on the monarchy, which ran parallel to the election, would prove that 60 per cent of Albanians wanted a former arms dealer to become King Leka Zog I. Mr Nano said that while the monarchists had done well in their traditional powerbases, such as Shkoder in the north, they would receive no more than 20 per cent support nationally.

Mr Nano said the extent of his victory would ensure the steady disarming of the southern gangs. "With international assistance we can eliminate them," he said.

Overall, Mr Nano said the Socialists controlled as many as 73 seats out of 115 elected by majority vote, with an extra 22 possible through a proportional system in the 155-seat Albanian parliament.

The coming days will determine whether Mr Berisha's Democrats and the militias behind them will accept their defeat. Heavily armed thugs lingered outside party headquarters yesterday, where a spokesman said: "The Democratic Party cannot be held responsible for any incidents involving foreigners. People are angry and they are blaming the defeat on foreign influence."

The OSCE can breathe a sigh of relief that the elections have passed off in relative calm, although armed gangs



Albanian gang members in the southern town of Vlore yesterday celebrate the Socialists' election victory

close to the Democrats in Fier, where an election official was shot dead on Sunday, were trying to prevent ballot boxes reaching Tirana. There were also embarrassing but reliable

reports of OSCE observers in Vlore trying their hand at firing Kalashnikovs supplied to them by the gangster Sultan Zani.

There was another death in

more gangland violence in Vlore, and a lucky escape for a Greek television team from the Anetenne channel, one of whose crew was literally shaved by bullets, leaving

burn marks on his arm. Two other Greek journalists held hostage further south in Sarander were rescued by a Romanian armoured personnel carrier.

## Le Pen woos the Gaullist Right in secret talks

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE Gaullists were plunged into fresh disarray yesterday after reports that Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the far-right National Front, has been secretly winning and dining senior figures from the vanquished centre-right coalition.

France's mainstream political parties have hitherto rejected any contact with M Le Pen, and the alleged meetings have raised suspicions that right-wing Gaullists may be seeking an alliance with the increasingly powerful National Front.

On June 16, two weeks after the Centre Right was savaged at the polls and ousted from government, M Le Pen dined at a quiet restaurant in the 15th Arrondissement of Paris with Jean-François Mancel, former Secretary-General of the Gaullist RPR party, and Robert Pandraud, Gaullist MP and president of the RPR Paris group, according to *Le Parisien*.

A spokesman for the Front initially maintained that no such meeting had taken place, but on Sunday M Le Pen admitted having had "an agreeable dinner" with M Pandraud. He denied that M Mancel, a close ally of Alain Juppé, the former Prime Minister, had been present.

According to sources cited by *Le Monde*, the National Front leader also dined recently with Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former President, a key figure within the centre-right alliance. M Giscard denied the report. M Le Pen declined to comment.

M Le Pen's deputy, Bruno Mégret, has repeatedly called for an alliance between the defeated coalition and the Front, which gained 15 per cent of the vote in the first round of the election.

"The secret dinner" showed that "certain leaders and opposition MPs have apparently decided to open a dialogue with the National Front," *Le Parisien* reported.

Other senior Gaullists expressed horror at the prospect

of joining forces with M Le Pen's xenophobic nationalists. Jean-Louis Debré, the former Interior Minister who replaced M Mancel as Secretary-General after the party's defeat, immediately called for the RPR to clarify its attitude towards the Front. "The National Front holds views which are not those of the Gaullists. The movement's leaders must debate this subject, and reach a clear position," M Debré said.

Renaud Musciet, another Gaullist MP insisted yesterday that an accommodation with the National Front was "impossible".

M Pandraud, who was Security Minister from 1986 to 1988, added fuel to the row by saying he was in favour of "low-level" discussions with the Front. "If there were personal or private discussions, why not?" M Pandraud demanded. "There are no enemies, only opponents."

M Le Pen said that his dinner with M Pandraud had been attended by their wives and another National Front official. He added: "Everyone knows M Pandraud benefited from National Front support during the elections, and this ensured his victory." He claimed to have dined in the past with other top figures on the political Right, but declined to give names.

"Le Pen is dining out so much at the moment, he's going to have to go on a diet," one anonymous politician told *Le Monde*.

Jobless blow: Unemployment in France has surged again to reach a new record high. Last month, the number of jobless rose by 32,400, or 1.1 per cent, marking "the biggest monthly increase since October 1993", according to the Employment Ministry.

The large increase comes after two months during which unemployment fell marginally. About 3.1 million French people are now out of work, or 12.5 per cent of the active population.

## President detained in Bosnian Serb power struggle

BY MICHAEL BINYON  
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

IN AN intensifying tussle for power that could sabotage the Dayton peace accords, hardliners in the government of the Bosnian Serb entity arrested Bijana Plavsic, the president, on her return from a conference

in Birmingham at the weekend, but later allowed her to leave for her office in Banja Luka.

She was detained near Bijeljina in the northeast of the Bosnian Serb territory on her return. She had cut short her visit to Britain to deal with a growing political crisis. Earlier, she had tried to sack Dragan Kijac, the

hardline interior minister, who remains loyal to Radovan Karadzic, the former Bosnian Serb leader forced to give up power by international pressure after being indicted for war crimes. Mr Kijac had dismissed a major in charge of an anti-terrorist police battalion amid suspicions that the interior ministry was attempting

to sabotage a crackdown on organised crime.

Her arrest appeared to be the culmination of an attempt by hardliners to oust her after her failure to dismiss Mr Kijac. She spent two days at a conference on Serb unity, but cut short a meeting yesterday with Tony Lloyd, Minister

of State at the Foreign Office. Yesterday she was reportedly allowed to leave for her office under Nato protection. Last night she accused Dr Karadzic of attempting a "coup".

Britain expressed concern about her arrest which appeared to signal an attempt by Dr Karadzic to reassert his authority.

### WORLD IN BRIEF

#### Bus bomb explosion kills 20 in Pakistan

KARACHI: A bomb blew up a packed passenger bus in Pakistan's eastern province of Punjab yesterday, killing at least 20 people (Zahid Hussain writes). The device was planted under a seat of the bus which carried 80 passengers, some riding on the roof. The incident occurred in Sialkot district close to the Indian border. Rescue workers said the bus caught fire and many of the victims were trapped. Fifty people were wounded and some were in a critical condition last night. There have been several recent attacks related to a feud between militant Shiite Muslims and Sunni Muslims.

#### Killer weed threatens Riviera

ROME: A virulent toxic seaweed is spreading along the Riviera coast, posing a threat to humans and marine life, scientists say. The seaweed, *Caulerpa taxifolia*, has been dubbed "the AIDS of the sea" by the Italian and French press (Richard Owen writes). The tropical alga, whose fronds are dangerous to bathers and deadly to many varieties of underwater plant, has spread from Toulon and St Tropez to San Remo, Alassio and Genoa.

#### Disabled Uday 'shot guard'

Nicosia: Six months after surviving an assassination attempt, Uday, left, the elder son of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, remains unable to walk, is sexually impotent and more volatile than ever, according to Iraqi dissidents (Michael Theodorou writes). Uday, 33, recently shot and wounded one of his guards during an outburst, the opposition Iraqi National Congress said. When he left hospital last month on crutches, one Iraqi businessman in Jordan said, "he looked pathetic."

#### Outback hunting ban urged

Brisbane: Only Aborigines should be allowed to hunt Australian animals such as kangaroos, goannas and dugongs and should use traditional weapons like spears, conservationists told a parliamentary inquiry into the commercial use of native animals. Lorraine and Geoff Conley said hunting should not be permitted with guns and four-wheel-drive vehicles. (AP)

#### Fast food for zoo elephants

Bangkok: A shortage of elephant food has prompted researchers to develop a substitute. Dusit Zoo has been feeding its elephants 1lb tablets of concentrated sugar cane, corn, molasses, vitamins and minerals for several months. "We have a problem with people destroying jungles," the zoo's director said. (AP)

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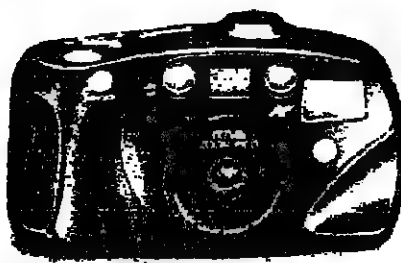
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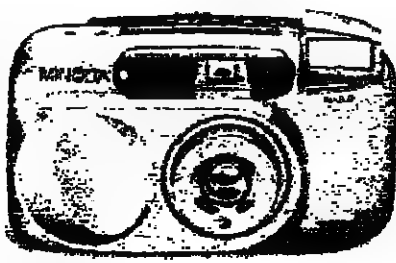
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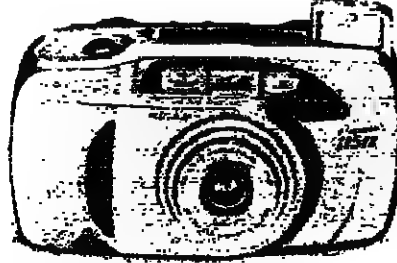
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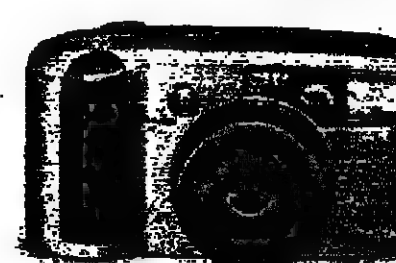
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# Trooper's story dents sex claim against Clinton

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

JULIA JONES has received a jolting blow to her attempt to bring sexual harassment charges against President Clinton with the revelation that Arkansas state troopers had about President Clinton's sexual habits in order to strike a creative book deal. Ronald Anderson, a trooper to guard Mr. Clinton when he was Governor of Arkansas, says he "convinced" stories about Mr. Clinton's repeated infidelity even though he knew they were untrue or had no first-hand evidence to support them, according to *The New Yorker*. In a four-page article, the magazine gives weight to the story that some kind of sexual encounter took place between Ms. Jones and the Governor in an Arkansas hotel room, but casts doubt on several parts of her case from her own new evidence. *The New Yorker*'s most startling piece of evidence is a 1994 affidavit provided by Mr. Anderson to Mr. Clinton's lawyers, in which he admits that he was discussing a potential book deal with other troopers, he corroborated anecdotes without any basis. While the affidavit does not discredit all the stories, he does say that any "were nothing more than old fish tales with little, if any, basis in fact". The revisions by Mr. Anderson follow Ms. Jones's Supreme Court victory in winning permission to bring her case against Mr. Clinton without delay. She claims that he infringed her civil rights by sending a trooper to take her to his room in the Excelsior Hotel and then asking her for oral sex.

The trial would cause Mr. Clinton huge embarrassment if it proceeded, but judging by opinion polls, real political damage might be slight. However, there is now speculation that both sides will reach a settlement without the President admitting blame. The point almost reached in 1994. As *The New Yorker* records, the past few weeks have also seen a shift in the highly-politicised swirl of rumours in the President's favour.

Among new twists potentially helpful to Mr. Clinton, the magazine cites two women who contradict accounts that Ms. Jones was upset after the encounter with Mr. Clinton, which forms a central part of her case. A colleague of Ms. Jones at the Arkansas Industrial Development Corporation described her "bubbly enthusiasm" at having met Mr. Clinton.

The switchboard operator at the Governor's office said that Ms. Jones told her in a "happy and excited manner" that a trooper had arranged for her to meet Mr. Clinton in his hotel room, and that Ms. Jones

started loitering by the Governor's office, checking his car parking space to see if he was in, and asking troopers to tell her his whereabouts.

Washington commentators were also taken aback last week when Stuart Taylor, the author of a much-quoted article last November in *The American Lawyer* which argued that Ms. Jones's case was strong, modified his arguments in the *Legal Times* under the heading "New disclosures could cloud Jones' credibility".

*The New Yorker* also notes the new disillusionment of one of Ms. Jones's junior lawyers, Daniel Traylor, who resigned from her case last week. Mr. Traylor, an attorney specialising in property sales, was the first lawyer she hired, but was soon out of his depth. The magazine says that before her remaining lawyers told him not to comment, he confided that it may have been a mistake for him to take the case.

He was particularly upset that she accepted \$1,000 (£600) from the conservative, religious producer of an anti-Clinton video called *The Clinton Chronicles*. Mr. Traylor told *The New Yorker* that the payment "soured me on the Joneses. I didn't want anything to do with that trash. These people were now on the nut circuit".



Chances Peak has been active for months. Its latest eruption has claimed 23 lives

# Rescuers fear final blow of island volcano

FROM TOM RHODES IN PLYMOUTH, MONTSERRAT

STANDING less than a mile from the spewing crater of Montserrat's volcano, Clifford Farrell looked skyward to the flow of lava crashing through acres of vegetation on the small British colony.

"That's nothing to what she can do," said Mr. Farrell, a fireman trawling the evacuated areas of this Caribbean island for human life. "If she really blows, then we're all dead. It would take less than a minute for the flow to reach this point now."

The native Montserratian has spent days recovering bodies from the worst eruption since Chances Peak became active again two years ago. Its belching gas and molten rock claimed the lives of at least 23 people last week. The first human casualties in living memory have left a deep impression on the six search and rescue teams and provoked the most tangible atmosphere of fear for the 6,000 islanders who remain cordoned in Montserrat's northern region.

Inside the unsafe zone, there is only devastation. Plymouth, the once-thriving capital, is coated in ash so thick that driving through its empty streets is like braving a Saharan sandstorm. Face masks are required to avoid lung damage from inhaling the pervasive sulphur fumes. Only the animals remain. Dogs, cats, goats and cows scurry through the ghost town in search of scant food. Closer to the volcano, many

have already died, swathed in 30ft of ash.

In a small hut in the evacuated Belham Valley, William Murrain is packing his bags. Now 51, he has lived on the small plot of land for 45 years and has already once been ordered to leave.

The rescue team knows that he has not moved out because the verandah has been swept of ash. "I know it's a time bomb waiting to go off but I don't want to move," he said. "I have lived here all my life and the people in the shelters are drunk all the time. We can't be expected to live like that."

He is one of many islanders who want the British Government to resolve the present crisis fast. The shelters have been long overfilled, rape and teenage pregnancy are rife, and local authorities say that at least 600 new houses must be built if the island is to sustain its population.

Baroness Symons, the Foreign Office Minister, was coming under increasing pressure to offer further financial support during her visit to Montserrat yesterday. Frank Savage, the island's Governor, has given warnings that a mass exodus could soon make the colony unsustainable.

London: Britain promised yesterday to do all that it could to keep Montserrat viable and confirmed that new aid of £6.8 million was being given.

# Fresh bomb plot inquiry opens in Oklahoma

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

A NEW investigation opened yesterday into persistent claims that the Oklahoma City bombing involved a larger conspiracy than has so far emerged.

A grand jury was empaneled thanks to public support for two men who have a profound mistrust of the official account, for which Timothy McVeigh has been sentenced to hang and his former friend, Terry Nichols, will stand trial in September. Charles Key, a member of the Oklahoma legislature, and Glenn

Wilburn, an accountant who lost two grandsons in the bombing, are convinced that additional plotters were involved and, despite vehement denials, that federal agents had prior knowledge of the attack in which 168 died, 19 of them children.

A key witness is expected to be Carol Howe, a former informant on a shadowy network of white supremacists for the government's Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms. She is expected to claim that she told her handlers before the bombing that she overheard a German citizen and a white supremacist discussing attacks on federal buildings.

Stephen Jones, defence lawyer, tried to call Miss Howe at McVeigh's trial, but the judge ruled that her testimony was irrelevant. Even Mr. Jones concedes that no specific threats or plots can be found in documents relating to Miss Howe, who is awaiting trial on charges related to another bomb threat.

The grand jury, sitting in secret, is also expected to focus on seven witnesses who have said they saw at least one other person with McVeigh in Oklahoma City on the day a huge lorry bomb shattered the federal building.

Federal authorities now say they

doubt there was a larger conspiracy, although they did indict McVeigh and Mr. Nichols on charges of plotting with "others unknown".

Mr. Key and Mr. Wilburn, acting against the wishes of the district attorney and Oklahoma's attorney general, collected 13,500 signatures on a petition calling for the grand jury investigation. Under Oklahoma law, that was sufficient to override official objections.

A foundation of bereaved families and survivors will today announce the winning design for a monument on the city-centre site of the bombed building.

# Oyster Bar gutted by fire

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE famed Oyster Bar at New York's Grand Central Station, which serves 1.8 million oysters to harried tourists and commuters every year, has been gutted by a fire started by an overheated refrigerator.

Nine firefighters and four passers-by suffered minor injuries when the blaze engulfed the restaurant, with its huge marble counters and vaulted tile ceilings, in the bowels of

New York's main railway station. Two hundred new chairs in the main bar were destroyed and the dining room and saloon suffered smoke and water damage before dawn on Sunday.

Mark Abramson, the general manager, said the restaurant would reopen after repairs in two weeks. "It's not as bad as it looks," he said.

The owners began renting the 27,000 sq ft space when the Beaux Arts railway station opened in 1913, although the restaurant existed on nearby

42nd Street before then. Tourists flock to the "whispering gallery", just outside the restaurant entrance. A whisper in one corner can be heard clearly in the other corners of the cavernous hall.

Zagat's restaurant guide describes the Oyster Bar as a "huge, bustling Grand Central landmark that's everything it should be, with fabulous fresh fish, unbeatable pan roasts, outstanding oysters, wonderful white wines, and classic old New York ambience."

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# Living with Alzheimer's

How do you cope when your parent becomes a child? Alida Baxter and Gillian Thomas describe their experiences



Gillian Thomas and her mother, Lilian. "It is sad to realise that we can no longer have a sensible conversation. But you just have to get on with it"

## CARING AT HOME

When my mother's neighbours rang me to say she had flooded her bathroom, we knew the day had finally come when she could no longer live alone. She had managed to look after herself in her own home in Birmingham for five years after the death of my father, but with increasing difficulty as Alzheimer's disease slowly took hold.

As a family — I am an only child with a husband and three children in their 20s — we had never discussed what should happen when she could no longer cope, and by that stage she was unable to take any decisions for herself.

So we brought her down to London. Moving her into our house seemed the natural thing to do. I felt it would have been traumatic for her suddenly to be in the unfamiliar surroundings of a home. At least with us she is among people she knows.

If on that fateful evening, we had thought about how long we might have to go on looking after her, the task might have seemed too daunting. Disturbed nights and wet beds, repetitive questions and, worst of all, never having the house to ourselves came as a shock. But we managed to see the funny side, too: one day, I found her chatting to herself in front of a mirror — "I don't know who that lady is but she keeps talking to me," she complained.

The worst time is the evening, when she is at her most disturbed and disturbing. Just when it would be nice to relax in front of the television or read the paper, we get a constant barrage of "Where am I?" "Where are you, Gillian?" and "I want to go home".

No matter how much we try to talk to her, the draining repetition goes on and on, impossible to ignore. In the end, we simply have to put her to bed.

Five years on, we have come to terms with what caring entails and I cannot be grateful

enough for my husband's tolerance. Naturally, he has less reason than me to look after her, yet he does so equally well.

The main burden is being so tied. Fortunately, I work from home as a freelance journalist. So caring has not involved having to give up my job. She can also safely be left alone for an hour or two as she has never wandered. In fact now, aged 90, she scarcely even tries to get out of her chair by herself.

But as she cannot be left alone overnight, impromptu getaways are a thing of the past. Any holidays have to be planned carefully and arrangements made to look after her.

## Impromptu getaways are a thing of the past

At first I had a desperate feeling of being trapped. Suddenly we were more restricted than we had ever been; even when the children were small, my parents had always been such willing babysitters.

Fortunately our GP soon arranged for regular "respite" in a special unit at the local hospital — two weeks every three months. We could not survive without it. The children are willing sitters, too, but I prefer not to impinge on their

social life too often and hope that they will never begin to regard their grandmother as a burden.

People often ask if I find it distressing to see her getting more and more confused. Of course I hate having lost my lively mother and it is sad to realise that we can no longer have a sensible conversation. But you just have to get on with it. Naturally there are times when her slowness and stupidity are so irritating that I feel like hitting her. But actually I only shout. Overall I suppose we are lucky that she expresses her frustration and worry in words and has never become violent. And even if she's no longer sure who I am, I believe she still senses my familiarity and love. Surely this must be a comfort to her.

GILLIAN THOMAS

## THE NIGHTMARE THAT RECURRED

The worst thing about nightmares is that they can recur. When my aunt died, in her eighties, she'd been suffering from dementia for years. She'd trotted around after us, saying: "I love you, I love you." She'd lost her false teeth, her hearing-aid, her slippers. She'd had to be undressed, taken to the bathroom, put to bed as though she were a baby; and she was just as exhausting, and adorable, as any baby can be. But through it all, my mother had been the strong one, and sharing an invalid with her had seemed like having a crumbling state-

ly home we had to keep going somehow: we never thought we'd manage, but, thanks to her strength, we did.

So I didn't want to believe it, when the nightmare recurred. After my aunt's death, my mother had looked frail. And above all, as time went by, deeply afraid. Her anxiety was more than grieving. One evening, she telephoned me and broke down. "Every night when I try to write my diary, I can't do it," she sobbed. "I can't remember the days. I can't remember a thing!"

Stress, I told her; I should have seen it coming. She'd battled on despite her age; she'd coped with it all. This was a passing reaction — but whatever I said, in my heart I was terrified. For years, I'd listened to my aunt weeping that she'd lost her memory, that everything would be all right if only she could have her memory back. "Not again," I said to myself, sweating. "Please, not again."

I dealt with psychologists and geriatricians, and a social worker gave me a paperback on Alzheimer's disease. As the medication increased, so did the side-effects. We'd rush through the night in an ambulance, and I'd stand by a casualty department trolley, so practised in the terminology that I'd be asked if I was a nurse.

Nurses were staples in our lives now, and like doctors they could provide heaven or hell. In a rehabilitation ward, I saw a nurse get patients to play board games; they were illuminated, their expressions changed, and I went home full of hope. But as the shifts changed, so did the attitudes: some refused to permit such a practice. "There's too much talking," rapped a sister. "And I'm not having it." Two days later, a fresh sister imported another ward's patients to join a tea party "because they're all so silent in here. They need livening up. I don't know what's wrong with them."

People who were already confused became even more disorientated, and I stayed for hours on end, knowing I was the only constant factor in my mother's surroundings.

The only place she was safe was at home, but I had to find someone to sit with her while I dashed out. One afternoon, she was radiant. The sister showed what they'd been doing: writing a letter. I picked it up, and my insides turned over. She'd been writing to her lost sister.

"I've missed you, I can't have had an address for you, or I'd have written before — I'll be marvelous when you're home. I can't wait to see you." The sister was dreadfully upset when she found me hiding in the kitchen; she hadn't realised. But I was crying because I was glad. They'd loved each other so much that forgetting her sister was dead had made my mother incredibly happy. I didn't want her to remember.

Alone, I sorted out handfuls of drugs, showered and bed-bathed her, dressed and undressed her, answered and explained, helped her to walk, and during hot months talked into the night and sponged her with cologne at 2 or 3am. "Unnerving," she'd murmur, "lovely." The round was interspersed with the harsh lights of casualty — horrific fevers, a thrombosis — and bouts of respite care that were no respite from anxiety.

In another hospital, I spoke to a doctor because if I missed an hour she wasn't given her medication. He pleaded with me not to complain "because we can't get nurses here, this is geriatric". He said it as though geriatric wards were leper colonies; small wonder his staff weren't motivated.

Yet in pockets there were fantastic teams, nurses who rubbed my mother's hands with lavender oil, who cared for her tenderly, and supported us both. And I'd watch as

wards closed, and precious teams like that were split up.

But by now my mother wasn't safe at home either. Illness followed illness, and, half-blind with exhaustion, I'd juggle drugs and hope, and there'd be the ambulance and casualty's lights again.

For years, I'd fought every offer of long-term care. But she needed more than one person. She was taken into a geriatric unit for a trial.

It only took a couple of weeks. She fell not on soft carpets, but on the cement floor of a lavatory where she'd been left. As an inquiry established later, she'd fallen constantly, but the falls hadn't been reported. The fractures were so bad, the nurses showed me the X-rays and a scaffolding of metal. And when she died, she was saying my name.

Geriatric care isn't glamorous, but it can be as poignant and rewarding as the care of a child. We've all been children, and we'll all become old. We may have Alzheimer's disease or some other dementia. We'll need kindness and love — not understaffed wards, or leper colonies. More than anything else, my mother adored hugs and kisses. She deserved better, and I hope that one day people like her will get it.

## ALIDA BAXTER

Alzheimer's Awareness Week begins on Sunday. Alzheimer's Disease Society: 0171-305-0606



Louisa Baxter: confused



Alida Baxter: terrified

We will need kindness and love, not leper colonies

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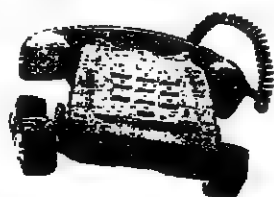
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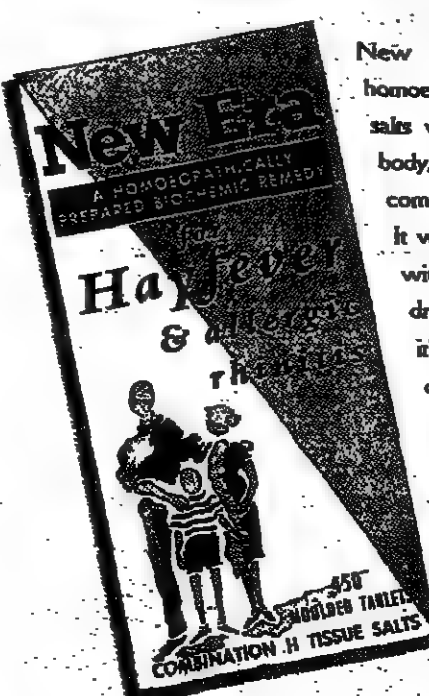
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# Be warned: bridge is addictive and leads to strange behaviour

Once the province of the blue-rinse brigade, bridge is growing increasingly fashionable. Susanna Gross reports



The author and Ed Victor have discovered "the antisocial thrill of sitting down with people you've never met before and asking 'Do you play weak or strong no-trump?'"

I wasn't so long ago that people gave me pitying looks when I told them I played bridge. I might as well have told them I was considering a blue rinse. Bridge was a game to take up in your old age, something to keep boredom at bay. But over the past few years a curious change has taken place. Those same people are ringing up and asking me where they can learn bridge. The game, it seems, is back in fashion. And in a big way: Harold Pinter, Lady Antonia Fraser, Charles Saatchi, the theatre impresario Michael White, the fashion guru Isaac Mizrahi — these are just some of the devotees.

But be warned: bridge is seriously addictive and can lead to some strange behaviour. Take the friends who invited me to their Somerset cottage to play for the night — their wedding night, to be precise. After the reception, we returned to their home. The bride, still in her wedding dress, rushed upstairs to slip into something more comfortable, and came straight down to the bridge table, where the groom was fumbling to undo a new pack of cards. We played until dawn.

Or take my holiday with several other bridge players on a beautiful Swedish island last summer. We arrived, unpacked, freshened up, admired the glorious view from the balcony — and headed indoors to cut for partners. We did little else but play for three days. On the fourth day, we decided it was time

to go out. So we loaded our bridge table onto a little hired boat and sailed off to the middle of a bay. There, we found a rock about the size of a large drawing room and resumed play.

It's hard to explain what makes bridge quite so compulsive. It's partly because you can never stop improving: partly because, unlike chess, chance plays a crucial role as well as skill; partly because there are ample opportunities for showing off — and three people, not just one, to congratulate you. In addition, having a partner lends the game a curious intimacy. Communication is all important, which is why an entire language of bridge has evolved. There are, for example, the names given to various manoeuvres: a "squeeze" is an advanced play, but there are endless refinements — the suicide squeeze, the criss-cross squeeze, the non-simultaneous double-squeeze.

But what I enjoy above all are the insights bridge gives you to a person's character. You can learn more about someone during an evening's play than you ever could over dinner. The wild optimist, the timid underbinder, the player with imagination — all is revealed. The man you thought so urbane and charming turns out to blame all his mistakes on his partner; the one you thought pompous has an endearing habit of blaming himself.

It is impossible, however, to grasp the game's appeal until you sit down and play. No one, for

example, was more against the idea of bridge than Ed Victor, the literary agent, whom I met two years ago. When he told me his wife played, I asked if he was tempted to learn. He gave me a horrified look. "Absolutely not," he said. He didn't have time for that sort of thing.

A year later I met him again. Somehow he had a softer, warmer glow about him. "Guess what?" he said. "I love bridge." His wife, it transpired, had given him a course of lessons for his birthday. Or rather, she had asked her bridge teacher to spring a surprise visit at his country retreat. Ed had spent the day shut up in a room with a grandmaster. When he finally emerged, he was a changed man. Now, he no longer greets me with "Hello" or "How are you?" but bursts straight into his latest game: "You know what happened the other night? I had seven hearts with

honours, but we ended up playing in a 4-2 spade fit..."

This, then, is the world of social bridge. But there is also the strange world of club bridge. I first walked into a bridge club about four years ago. It seemed so much easier than organising three people for a game: here was bridge on tap, six nights a week. In a smoke-filled basement, table after table was laid out. Around each table sat an assortment of people — pin-striped City types to dishevelled dropouts, bouffant ladies to gawky youths — all united in a love of bridge.

They were playing what is known as duplicate bridge. This is a competition: you and your partner play every pair in the room. The cards are pre-dealt, so everyone ends up playing the same hands. At the end, the scores are compared. The standard was incomparably higher than anything I was used to. My friends and I had thought we were pretty good. Here, I suddenly

found myself being described as a beginner. "But I've been playing for five years!" I eventually confided to a kindly grandmaster. "Mmm," he replied. "Exactly who with?"

A whole new world of bridge had opened up. Here I was, with people who seemed to do little but think, talk and play the game. Gone was the gossip table-talk I had previously indulged in with friends. Instead, I had to learn to use "bidding boxes" (which prevent people at the next table from overhearing you). And there was no question of my mistakes being laughed off. Instead, opponents would immediately call for the "tournament director", who would come over clutching the *International Laws of Contract Bridge* and reading out its decrees.

Most social bridge players don't go to bridge clubs, and don't want to. But once my terror had subsided, I developed a taste for this underworld. I particularly relished

the unfriendliness of the game: the antisocial thrill of sitting down to play against two people you've never met before and simply asking: "Do you play weak or strong no-trump?"

Despite its genteel image, bridge can be a very macho game. As soon as I was comfortable playing duplicate bridge, I ventured into the world of rubber bridge clubs, where people play for stakes. Before long I had the experience of sneaking off to a club at midnight and promptly losing a day's earnings. Unlike duplicate, at rubber bridge you cut for new partners after each session. Although most people are reasonable, certain players are very rude. "Cut me in, boys," they say as they swagger in. Then they roll up their sleeves, lean back, puff on their cigars, and lose no time in making clear what they think: "Whaddya

do that for? Jesus! Haven't you played this game before?"

Why would I want to play with such people? Because I love the game enough to put up with it. After all, the only way to improve is to play with people who are better than you. And no sport is gentler at the top. Perhaps one day I'll be good enough to play in the so-called "big game" at TGR Bridge Club, on London's Bayswater Road. Here, in a discreet basement, the world's top players, including the flamboyant Zia Mahmood (the most famous of today's stars) and Bob Hamman (ranked No 1) flock to play for the highest stakes in Europe. A punter is not even allowed to join in unless he can lay down a £15,000 deposit — because that's how much he could lose in a few hours.

But, except at this level, money doesn't really come into it. The great majority of games are played for tiny stakes or none at all, and enjoyed just as intensely.

Mike Tyson's despicable and demeaning display on Saturday is a tragedy for all the young people for whom boxers are an inspiring role model. His barbaric behaviour not only gives the wrong signal to the world about boxing, it offers kids who look up to boxers a worrying example.

Childhood influences shape our lives. The most haunting memory of my early years was when, aged eight, I was excluded from my school for fighting. I don't doubt that I was aggressive, disruptive and totally uninterested in learning — but I am very much aware that the school's action could have resulted in me becoming permanently alienated from society.

It was that memory which prompted me to try to do something to help kids who find themselves in a similar situation today. I have been where they are now and I remember how it feels. I was lucky in that my talent for boxing was eventually recognised, and the very thing that provoked my exclusion from school became my salvation. But as I began to achieve success, I became more

## Boxer Lennox Lewis deplores the behaviour of Mike Tyson

### The kids that I try to help

aware of the fact that learning is the key to a fulfilled life. Kids who find it difficult to function within the conventional education system are regarded as a threat to the rest of society.

I wondered if it would be possible to create a place of learning that would be acceptable to the kind of kids who had found themselves outside conventional education. At present, there are few routes open to them. Most end up in Pupil Referral Units doing classes for a couple of hours a day. Many of the PRUs carry a terrible stigma with them. At the Lennox Lewis College — which opened its doors to 60 pupils in 1995 — we aim to remove that stigma. The



Skills: Lennox sits in on a lesson at the college

criminal justice system and a proportion are in care. The transformation that occurs within a couple of months is amazing. Of course drawing these kids back into full-time education is not easy. We have to build up their confidence by using a number of incentives. But by taking a genuine interest in each student, we can effect a remarkable change.

More conventional schools talk about teaching the three Rs — writing, reading and arithmetic. In order to do that we first have to teach the fourth R — respect. I try hard personally to reinforce that message when I drop in to the college. If I find that a pupil isn't paying attention I'll

say to him: "Hey, listen, man, you need to know this." I use the respect they have for me to inspire respect in their education.

Obviously the level of care and expertise we offer is not cheap. It costs around £12,000 a year to keep a student at this college and currently almost all those funds are being met from my own income. When I set up the college, I did so because I believed passionately in the idea of rehabilitation through education, but I do worry about how long I will be able to carry the burden on my own.

Recently, I met a student's mother. She told me what a difference her son's acceptance at the school had made to her life. It struck me quite dramatically that it might have been my own mother and the student might have been me. Being able to give that boy another chance of achieving a proper education gives me enormous satisfaction. Not because it could have been me, but because it was.

● Lennox Lewis College, Theodora Road, Upper Clapton, Hackney, London E9 6NA  
● Lennox Lewis is speaking to Jane Gordon.

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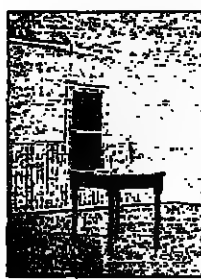
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## ■ VISUAL ART 1

Scorched by the experience of war, Fernand Léger produced work of intense visionary quality



## ■ VISUAL ART 2

No place like ... a show called *Home* finds the quirky angles in the all-too-familiar

THE TIMES  
ARTS

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PARIS GALLERIES: Richard Cork on the Pompidou Centre's stunning tribute to the worlds of Fernand Léger

# The bold mechanics of Légerdemain

He turned in by grey walls, three soldiers play cards with the grim concentration of generals planning a ferocious campaign. Their metal-plated bodies gleam like robots, and the pipes jutting from their mouths send out puffs of gun-smoke. Although the composition has echoes of Cézanne's stolid card-players, these men are far more sinister than Provencal peasants.

Fernand Léger was convalescing from prolonged war service when he painted this impressive canvas in 1917. Drained by his frontline experience in the engineering corps, the 36-year-old artist had just been discharged from hospital. The injured and shell-shocked patients he saw there confirmed his wry belief that the battle strategy "is just as horrible as economic warfare in peacetime. The only difference is that the result is pushed a little bit further: instead of ruining a chap, you kill him."

But Léger, like his trio of card-clutching combatants, was a survivor. From the outset of his superbly installed retrospective at the Pompidou Centre in Paris, he establishes himself as a tough-minded, resolute individual. Although he shared an early love of Cézanne with other Cubist artists, his prewar pictures already define a singular vision. The monumental nudes lumbering through a forest in Léger's first ambitious canvas may belong to a primordial world, but the harsh angularity of their faceted bodies, no less than the metallic trees and vegetation, belong to the machine age as much as to prehistory.

Léger had a formidable appetite for 20th-century urban life, and his Cubist work often focuses on clanking figures whose bulky bodies move through their austere surroundings with unstoppable energy. Léger seems to be commenting on the ruthless impersonality of modern, big-city existence, and his shiny blue and red figures resemble automata. But their structure also derives from a purist determination to strip his pictorial language of everything

except line, colour and form at their most simplified. These roughly summarised bodies may seem robotic, but in one painting they are identified as dancers from the Russian Ballet.

At this stage in his magisterial progress, Léger saw everything in terms of dynamically contrasted volumes, and in his most abstract works they clash against each other like an uneasy prophecy of the war to come. Active service proved a turning point. By the time he painted *The Card Game*, Léger had decided to pull back from abstraction. Looking back on the war years, he recalled being

"dazzled by an open gun breach in the sun, the magic of light on white metal ... Once I had bitten into that reality, the object never left me." He relished the solidity of the machine world, and it may seem surprising that Léger made

so little sculpture. But he also respected the flatness of his picture-surface. Even a powerful 1918 painting called *The Circus Acrobats* resists the temptation to let figures plunge through space. Léger pushes them hard against the picture plane and, instead of savouring their exuberant agility, he turns them into helmeted embodiments of the war years.

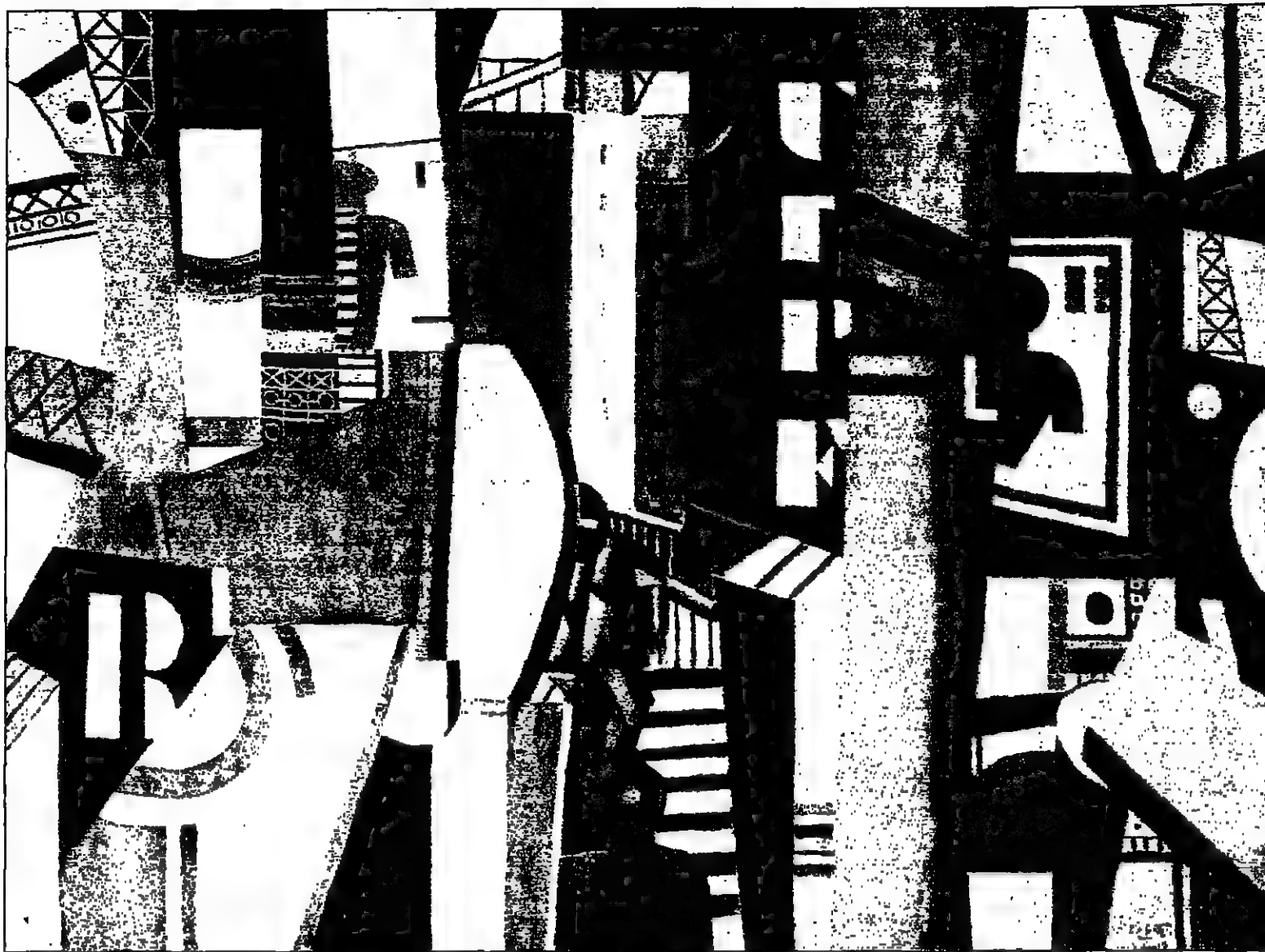
What gives this image its outstanding dynamism, though, is Léger's mastery of colour contrasts. The picture is broken up into a patchwork of crisply juxtaposed segments, and their precision is awesome. Before the war, Léger's handling often looked cursory, as if he had no time for ingratiating brushwork. Now, however, everything is organised with exactitude and aspires to a smooth, almost industrialised finish.

As if to celebrate his return to a mercifully intact Paris after the devastation of the killing fields, he produced some ambitious paintings of urban life. Gigantic coloured discs pulsate in some of them, recalling the work of his old friend Robert Delaunay. But Léger's vision was harder, less bound up with purely optical sensation. His discs are firmly lodged in the rectilinear geometry of urban architecture, and

a similar feeling of enclosure dominates a 1919 masterpiece simply titled *The City*.

By far the largest canvas Léger had so far produced, it contains at the centre two figures on a staircase. Unlike the similar pedestrians he had painted in the prewar period, these grey bodies lack boisterousness. And the steps they descend are now only a small element in a complex panorama, where colossal letters vie with girders, poles, windows and a host of less identifiable fragments emphasised above all by their poster-like colour.

In its size and outspoken suggests that Léger was increasingly stimulated by the spectacle of the billboard, but he was not yet ready to allow



Buildings and signs dominate the two human figures at the centre of *The City* (1919), the work of an artist recently returned from the horrors of war

people a prominent presence in his postwar work. Away from the staircase, figures in *The City* are reduced to cut-out forms, sliced off by neighbouring buildings and trapped within the labyrinth of their surroundings.

However much Léger may have been aware of urban alienation and the new century's unprecedented capacity for destruction, he was essentially an optimist. Anguish cannot be found in his work of the 1920s, when so much of his finest work was produced. Léger was profoundly indebted to classicism, and a fascination with Poussin can be detected in many of his grandest images. When figures finally begin to assert themselves in his paintings, though, they convey no hint of nostalgia for the past.

The objects in Léger's best interior work possess as much intensity as the people they accompany. In his 1924

film *Ballet Mécanique*, screened continually in the middle of the Pompidou exhibition, he relishes a succession of industrial forms. Occasionally a smiling woman on a

swing, a plump laundress or the sly, erotic features of Man Ray's mistress Kiki de Montparnasse interrupt the eggbeaters, pistons and other pounding components. But there is no mistaking Léger's determination to give these often-repeated objects as much dignity and significance as the human performers.

Given Léger's infatuation with the archetypal modern city, it was inevitable that he should travel to New York. His first visit in 1931 proved so mesmerising that he returned

again and again, eventually spending most of the Second World War in California, New York and Canada. The American years were marked by a turning-away from angularity. Far from allowing himself to be obsessed with the skyscrapers of Manhattan, he concentrated on the curvilinear rhythms of naked divers and a provocative circus star called Big Julie. The heaviness that had afflicted his most grandiose paintings of the 1930s dropped away, especially in an ebullient canvas called *Adieu New York*, where colour streams across the surface with a new, exhilarating sense of liberation. It anticipates the clangour of Pop Art, and Roy Lichtenstein in particular

must have learnt a great deal from Léger's late work.

But too many of the paintings he made after returning to France seem slipshod compared with the overwhelming authority of his 1930s work. For a long time, absence of doubt had been a central strength. Now it often led him into sloppiness.

Just before he died in 1955, though, Léger recovered his vivacity with a colossal painting called *The Grand Parade*. Drawing on enraptured boyhood memories of the circus, he animated his irrepressible canvas with ballerinas, clowns and acrobats. Above all, this mural-sized swansong gains its brio from undulating bands of scarlet, blue, orange and green. They are a final, flamboyant affirmation of his prolonged love affair with the dynamism of modern life.

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## LONDON GALLERIES

IN *Home*, a well-rounded exhibition at the Margaret Harvey Gallery, the arrangement of small sculptural objects avoids the pitfalls of "atmospheric" installation. Obvious reference to the sinister gives way to a more thoughtful collection. Jane Simpson's rubber casts of girls' bedroom ornaments include a little bride perched on the fork of a fake wooden branch. Neil Misra's Union Jack painting has a central black cross. Only the sofa perched in front of Leo's continuous storytelling video hints at the exact scale of the familiar sitting room.

Each of Daniel Cigman's Perspex boxes verbally illustrating a dream punctuates the space while fake flowers, like those washed or blown away from a graveyard, are delicately displayed by Hugh Hamshaw-Thomas. Richard Foxster's sweet pink and white striped detachable mantelpiece and painting are somehow contrarily complemented by the excellent thickly painted red carpet strip by Richard Woods.

Margaret Harvey Gallery, University of Hertfordshire, 7 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 3RS (01767) 285376, until July 12

□ THE first venue of Martin, a two-site exhibition featuring 17 artists, or groups of artists, promises well. Stefan Beck's diagram of a musical journey through Frankfurt illustrates to just the right level. Accompanied by music on headphones, a route can be traced from the "reactionary green crowd" to the band of "liberal terror".

Downstairs here, at the Commercial Gallery, Rod Dickinson's pinboard crammed with information collected by "crop circle enthusiasts" hangs near one of his perfunctory spacecraft drawings. John Timberlake's rather dry paintings promise a strange take on an urban invention, while back upstairs Alison Gill's small figure of the Grim Reaper weeps blood. Upstairs, a few streets away, Hiroko Okada's cat's cradle of illustrated ideas set up a light interference across the space.

Organised by David Goldenberg and Taro Nasu at The Commercial Gallery, 109 Commercial Street, London E1 6GB and on the top floor at 146 Brick Lane, London E1 6RU (0171-247 9747), until July 13

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## Sinned against

THIS year's Lufthansa Festival of Baroque Music ended as it had begun, with the music of J.S. Bach. But this was no over-the-top celebration: had it not been for the singing of Andreas Scholl, this would have been an evening as damp and dark as the midsummer over which the festival has reigned.

Sigiswald Kuijken and his Petite Bande were in subdued mood. Not only did they choose a severe, Lenten-oriented programme of cantatas, in which the word "sin" refused to go away, but they cast many a shadow over the more innocent instrumental works too. They followed the elegiac Concerto for violin and oboe, BWV1060 (Kuijken and Marcel Ponseele) with the Brandenburg Concerto No 6, in which the austerity of strings old and new — two violas and cello pitted against two violas da gamba and violone — was exaggerated by tired, lacklustre playing seemingly bent on self-denial.

If one dared to look for colour, for varied timbre, for suppleness of inflection within rhythmic precision, then it was to be found only in the singing of countertenor Andreas Scholl. But this was quite some "only": it is thrilling to observe Scholl's voice expanding and maturing on each visit to London, and on Saturday he sang as well as he has ever heard him.

The cantata *Widerstehe doch der Sünde* (Hold your self firm against all evil) showed off the distinctively firm and resonant low register of this exceptional voice. Long, strong phrasing dominated in an aria from *Bekennen will ich seinen Namen* (I will avow his name), before the major work of the evening, *Vernichte Ruß*, *beliebte Seelenlust* (O blessed rest, O welcome heart's delight).

Here the full and extraordinarily wide range of Scholl's countertenor gloried in Bach's more expansive and melismatic style. His recitative, always beautifully paced and enunciated, was sensitive to the shifting stages of meditation here from reflection on the world's ills in robust tone and hard consonants, to a veiling of the voice as God is addressed with humility and remorse. This change also shaped the subsequent aria. Even La Petite Bande could not resist finally tuning their spirits and instruments to musicianship as alert and imaginative as this.

HILARY FINCH

## CLASSICAL CHOICE

This week, in conjunction with Radio 3, the distinguished music critic Robert Layton chooses ten favourite recordings

A GREAT record conveys the composer's intentions so vividly that you are hardly aware of the interpreter's mediation. Not only does it somehow bring you into the presence of the composer, but at each repetition some facet of the music that has escaped you before strikes you afresh. In Schnabel's prewar set of the Beethoven Sonatas (EMI CHS7 63765-2, £79.99) you feel that it is Beethoven himself who is speaking. Nor is there more perfect playing than in two Mozart Piano Concertos, No 17 and No 22, recorded by Murray Perahia and the English Chamber Orchestra (Sony Classical SK 36686 and SK 42242, £15.49 each), blending the bloom of youth and the wisdom of maturity.

Few chamber works are more sublime than Schubert's String Quintet in C, D956 and few performances finer than by the Hollywood Quartet and Kurt Reher (Testament mono SBT 1031, £12.99). Though a lesser master, Grieg has the same naturalness of utterance and effortless lyrical flow. Emil Gilels's anthology of Grieg's Lyric Pieces (DG449 721-2, £9.99) offers infinite variety of tone colour. Three orchestral scores all written in 1911-12, Stravinsky's *Petrushka*, emerges with amazing dramatic intensity from the prewar Philadelphia Orchestra under Stokowski (Dutton CDAX 8002, £9.89); Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloé* is one of the most ravishing scores in all music, and Charles Münch and the Boston Symphony Orchestra (RCA 09026 61846-2, £9.99) recorded in 1955 capture its ecstatic quality perfectly. The profound issues on which the

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Building a Library

Sibelius Fourth Symphony touches are fully explored by Karajan and the Berlin Philharmonic (DG 439 527-2, £9.99). Nor have the epic sweep and tragic power of the Shostakovich Fourth Symphony been more fully realised than by Mitropoulos and the New York Philharmonic (Sony MPK 45698, £9.99). Having excluded opera and song, Nadia Boulanger's classic set of Monteverdi Madrigals (EMI CDH 7 61025-2, £11.99) clamours for inclusion. It radiates so much love for Monteverdi that it more than justifies its accolade from *The Record Guide*: "One of the purest treasures the gramophone has given us."

● To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk. Next Saturday on Radio 3 (9am): Saint-Saëns's *Samson et Dalila*

EN

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Bizet

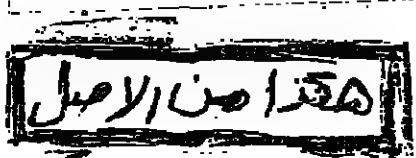
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■ CHOICE 2

**The life story of Tallulah Bankhead is brought to the stage in Chichester**  
VENUE: Opens tonight at the Minerva Studio

**Fernand Léger**

It's not often an audience emerges from the fourth and longest opera of *The Ring* feeling revitalised, but as the Rhine overflowed and Valhalla was engulfed in flames at the close of *Götterdämmerung*, many of the 1,200 who packed Norwich's Theatre Royal on Saturday looked ready to repeat their ten-day adventure. The city's first Ring, presented with resourceful flair by the Theatre Royal and Norwegian Opera, is memorable above all for being so refreshingly free of the Teutonic baggage that often weighs Wagner's cycle down. Though produced by an 'English-

**True heroine:** Carol Yahr as an alert and radiant Brünnhilde in Norwegian Opera's *Götterdämmerung*

both the music and the drama faithfully, and this *Ring* was notable for being free of the in-your-face concepts often imposed on the work. Ashman allows the stereotypical characters to remain stereotypes: open to everyone's own interpretation.

This cycle will also be remembered for the musical intimacy achieved by the conductor Heinz Fricke, something seldom heard in larger theatres. Although he was perhaps a little staid in *Siegfried*, the cycle's "scherzo" movement, Fricke's pacing was steady throughout and his support of the singers always considerate. None had to shout and some managed almost to whisper at times, getting words and musical lines across with ease.

Indeed, Arild Helleland sang an uncommonly musical Mime, far removed from the manic caricature usually presented and a strong contrast with the vivid Alberich of Hartmut Welker. Also in *Siegfried*, Toril Carlsen made a bright Woodbird, and Knut Skram, one of Norway's best-known singers, an even-toned, noble Wanderer; the dramatic loss of having a different Wotan and Wanderer became a musical gain.

In *Götterdämmerung*, which highlighted excellent trios of Norms and Rhinemaidens, and as intense, eleman-

ing Waltraute from Rosemarie Lang, several of the singers gave their finest performances. Gudjon Oskursson, who had earlier made his mark as Fafner and Hunding, proved himself one of the company's outstanding singing-actors as a Hagen of daring power, and Edward Cook's Siegfried was in stronger voice, having started out as a hard-working but underpowered hero. Best of all was Carol Yahr's alert and radiant Brünnhilde, who over her moving scenes developed into the true heroine of this remarkable cycle.

JOHN ALLISON

man, Mike Ashman, this *Ring* is strong on its Nordic roots, with the Norwegians apparently intent on reclaiming their part of the saga. The prophesying Norns, for instance, seem to step straight out of the *Edda*. Several of Kathrine Hysing's stage pictures reinforce this impression, not just the Norwegian-looking Christmas trees, which also serve as reminder that the cycle is partly a gift of the Norwegians: the project only happened thanks to a substantial injection of state funds from across the North Sea, something impossible to imagine happening the other way around.

As the cycle progressed, these trees became a visual leitmotif, reappearing in most of the crucial scenes. By the Prologue to *Götterdämmerung* they stood under a doom-laden sky apparently devastated by nuclear fallout. It was here that the components of Ashman's time-travelling *Ring* finally fell into place, with the futuristic designs following on naturally from a contemporary-looking *Siegfried*, a *Walküre* set in the 19th century, and a *Rheingold* dominated by gods in 18th-century costume.

Of the final two instalments, *Siegfried* featured the most striking designs, including a giant, Jurassic-style dragon's leg which clawed its way out of Wagner's lair, and a feminine Woodbird flying above the stage on a swastika. But all the designs, whether abstract or naturalistic, illustrated

POF

Southern Bank may well prove to be her farewell to this country. Retirement beckons. Or so she would have us believe. Announcements of that sort have a habit of turning into a long goodbye, as one last tour follows another.

With any luck, she will be back. But if Warwick really is bowing out, this was quite a way to leave the stage. An often diffident and reserved performer in the past, she gave an irresistible, two-hour display of pop aristocracy, no gimmicks, no preening and only

one cumbersome bout of audience participation...

It was all the more remarkable considering how many nights she casually dispatched in a breathless opening sequence in the first half hour, the BBC Concert Orchestra arrayed behind her. Other singers would have been forgiven for holding *Walk On* in reserve for a grand finale.

Not Warwick. *Anyone Who Had A Heart* went the same way, quickly followed by *I Say A Little Prayer*. Swapping

phrases with her three backing singers (who included her sister and one of her cousins) Warwick seemed excessively eager to lay the past to rest.

Her voice took longer to settle. Whether due to fatigue or prolonged exposure to a

British summer, there was a touch of hoarseness to her delivery in the early stages. On *Walk On By*, she was quite plainly snatching at the higher notes, the smooth, liquid flow for once absent.

Since so much of her appeal lies in her precise articulation, this was a potentially serious problem. Yet by the time she unfurled a perfectly paced reading of *A House Is Not A Home* her delivery was returning to normal.

There were, it transpired,

longbook; while the late Queen *Heartbreaker* received better treatment than perhaps deserves. Warwick conferring sophistication on everything she touches. One welcome excursion came in the shape of a sensual Jobim medley in celebration of her newly adopted home of Brazil. Musical director Joe Kloess imposed an unhurried pulse of material as varied as *Água de Março*, *Wave* and *Retrato em Branco e Preto*.

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# We demand a voice on Amsterdam

Michael Howard wants Labour to put the treaty to a referendum

The Amsterdam treaty is a defeat for Britain. The Government has made big concessions to the other members in return for little more than agreements that the United Kingdom can continue to control policies which it has always controlled anyway.

The original purpose of the summit was to prepare for the admission of the Central and Eastern European nations, an aim shared by all the main political parties. But the treaty makes none of the institutional changes that would have brought enlargement forward: it is a prescription for a deeper, not a wider Europe.

The Government has failed to secure a better deal for British fishermen. During the election, Labour agreed with us that the problem of foreign "quota-hoppers" could be tackled only by changing the European treaties. But the Prime Minister has come back from Amsterdam with nothing more than a letter from the Commission that restates the existing situation by confirming Britain's right to issue licences which require a proportion of fish to be landed here. So Tony Blair has done nothing new to prevent foreign boats from fishing our quota.

Nor has the Government come back with any other positive gains. It has done nothing to decentralise power in the EU, nothing to curb the political ambitions of the European Court, and nothing to reform the common agricultural policy — something we used to hear a great deal about when Labour was in Opposition.

Perhaps the most dangerous aspect of the treaty is that it erodes Britain's veto. First, qualified majority voting is extended to 16 new areas, including such vital matters as social and employment policy. Majority voting means that Britain can be forced to adopt measures which it believes to be harmful.

Secondly, Article F of the treaty declares that "the Union shall be founded on the principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law, principles which are common to the member states". No one could disagree with this sentiment. The trouble is that human rights can be, and are, interpreted in widely differing ways. Under Article F(a), if EU members find a state guilty of a persistent and serious breach of those principles, they can suspend its voting rights and any other rights it enjoys as an EU member. They are required to consult the European Parliament, but not any judicial body.

It does not take much imagination to see how this clause could be used to disarm the veto. If one country were preventing the others from adopting a measure which they regarded as vital, Article F(a) could be used as a pretext to suspend its voting rights. Anything could be described as a human rights abuse if the political will were there: anti-terrorism legislation or immigration controls. The second

of the treaty concerned with fundamental rights talks of anti-discrimination measures and of "a high level of employment and social protection": plenty of ammunition for someone seeking the widest possible interpretation of human rights.

Moreover, while the veto is being removed from the member states, new powers of veto are being given to the European Parliament. Federalists want to create a bicameral legislature, with the Parliament as the lower chamber and the Council of Ministers as a kind of upper house, or Bundesrat, representing the member states. Supporters of this model want the Parliament to be put on an equal legislative footing with the Council, through a procedure known as "co-decision". The idea of co-decision is that instead of national governments having a veto over EU legislation, that blocking power is exercised by the Parliament. Amsterdam extends co-decision to 23 new areas, including social and transport policy. New powers for Strasbourg mean fewer powers for Westminster.

Before the election, Mr Blair claimed that the social chapter could not be used to impose unwanted burdens on British firms. Now he accepts that it can, and his new solution is to plead with the other members not to use the social chapter for the purposes they have always intended it. I wish him luck.

And what has Britain gained? Mr Blair is very proud of having opted out of the European border-free zone. It would be churlish of us to complain, having negotiated the deal ourselves before the election. The equation is simple: Britain has given its permission to the others to use the EU structures in this area in return for guaranteed control over our own frontiers. It is, of course, an unmistakable opt-out. What price our Labour's stated opposition to any permanent opt-outs?

The Amsterdam treaty opens the door to a significant loss of our self-government. The Danish Government has recognised its constitutional importance, and promised its people a referendum. Others may follow suit.

Labour, in general, is fond of referendums. If we are to have a referendum on whether London should have an elected mayor and the North East of England a regional assembly, surely we should have one on a matter of such constitutional significance as the Amsterdam treaty.

Before the election, John Major said that if Amsterdam involved significant constitutional change, we would have to consider a referendum. It does involve such change; it will take powers away from Westminster and give them to Brussels. The British people should be given the chance to say whether they think it is a good deal for Britain. And that means a referendum.

The author is the Shadow Foreign Secretary.



## Long to rain over us

The Royal Pageant of the Horse is the ultimate summer washout

I have an old recording of Edith Sitwell reading her sombre wartime poem for Good Friday, in a doomy, quavering voice. Played it the other day, to cheer myself up:

Still falls the rain  
Dark as the world of man,  
Black as our loss  
Blind as the nineteen hundred  
and forty nails  
Upon the Cross...

But come now, Dame Edith, you must expect still-falling rain at Easter. As every child knows by now, it replenishes the ground-water supplies and tops up the aquifers, unlike summer rain, which apparently does no good at all but just makes people wet. What drenches the spirit this time is the resolute refusal of June to flame (except, apparently, in the Hebrides). Everywhere else the honourable roll of Great British Washouts lengthens daily, so that you can actually feel your character being formed by adversity. Down goes the Test match on the one day you had tickets and a day off; down goes Auntie's silver wedding garden party, down goes rock at Glastonbury and Handel in the park, Wimbledon and school sports day. It even poured on the handover ceremony in Hong Kong yesterday.

There is a certain spirit of glum camaraderie abroad: my man on the Reading train reports pin-striped commuters smiling with fatherly sympathy at mud-caked sleeping teenagers up from Glastonbury, and at least the thwarted egg-and-spoon favourite aged six can stand together in spirit with Tim Henman, still-lipped as both contemplate soaking frustration.

But after a few days' cheery exchange of Blitz spirit with our compatriots, the most British of us turn a bit snarly. No summer event is safe: I even managed to get washed out of a literary festival the other day. After four hours virtually stationary on various M25 interchanges, with wipers going full tilt and capsize lorry-drivers trudging along the hard shoulder, it became clear that no power on this wet British earth could deliver me to Deves before dusk. Or get me home, either.

Nothing to do but endure, punch radio buttons and listen to several hundred over-excited journalists full of free egg-fried-riced yammering on about the last Royal Yacht upping anchor in the last colony as the sun (sob) sets on the Empire. A chance

would be a fine thing, we homebodies snarled from the mud. The sun could set all it liked over here, provided the damn thing came out in the first place.

But the greatest, saddest, glum-mest washout went oddly under-reported. On Sunday night the estimate BBC radio news informed the nation that the Royal Pageant of the Horse, scheduled for Saturday night in Windsor Great Park, is cancelled owing to the ground being made dangerously unstable by rain-fall. Neither television news bulletin bothered even to mention this

reasonable records of being willing to stop after a rousing gallop will not send divots flying. The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse will not, after all, be galloping into the arena wearing 15th-century costumes and brandishing glittering scythes at cantering children disguised as Valkyries. Blast!

Major Michael Parker was the man behind this scheme: the biggest event of its kind, the most complex, the most challenging in its blend of theatrical and equestrian skills (apparently the two staffs refer to one another as "Fetlock Polishers" and "Luvvie Tendency"). It could only have been Major Parker, really: he is one of our unsung national jewels, a ceremonial showman with a ferocious eye for detail and an endearing tendency to dash real tears from his own eyes at moments he has himself cunningly designed specifically for their throat-lump potential.

After his triumphs at VE-Day, successive Royal Tournaments and British Legion pageants, not to mention his party in Hyde Park for 180,000 children which included a ten-mile-long sausage ("no, 998 miles," he always corrects you) he was the natural choice. Who else could bring together Horse Guards, Olympic champions and pony club district commissioners with such panache in such a vast, absurd, sentimental, *haut amateur* tribute to horses and the Queen's lifelong preoccupation with them?

Frankly, it would have knocked the Hong Kong handover into a cocked hat. It was going to take 224 times longer to build the site than to run the actual 90-minute pageant. It was going to generate a forecast four tonnes of horse manure, and a financial surplus from ticket sales to equine and military charities. It was sponsored by Asprey's, without a penny of livery or public money, because dammit, the horses set are pretty independent and don't go in for whingeing and handouts.

And now it isn't going to happen.

Too much unseasonal wet, too much mud, too much danger. The same cool, practical military eye which set the whole thing up has studied the terrain, assessed the risk to spectators, staff and horses, and calmly but decisively pulled the plug with no chance of reprieve. The Palace has no doubt received the news with equally British phlegm. If corbys are on the receiving end of a sharper word than usual, or highly-polished military toe-caps are swung, suddenly, against stable doors: if, up and down the horse counties, tickets are rammed into refund envelopes with a "Pshaw" of repressed fury at being deprived of such catharsis, we shall never know, if the smaller Pony Clubbers' lips begin to tremble at the loss of their big, big night, then they will be firmly quelled by masterful district commissioners. Can't be helped. These things happen. Especially with horses, children: they go lame on the eve of shows, they are stung by wasps in the dressage ring, they die suddenly of inexplicable disorders of the innards. All you can do is your best. Nothing is guaranteed.

What a dull, grey, unprepossessing rice-pudding of a moral that is! What a glum lesson to learn! Even Burns could not make it palatable, telling his sleek fieldmouse that its best-laid plans would gang a-gley. Myself, I willingly paid opera prices to junket off to Windsor with a gang of eight adults and children, just to see an hour and a half of Major Parker's spirited, barny, romantically sentimental interpretation of The Horse in History. I like nothing better than a thousand horses careering around with loud bangs, glittering armour, lights and smoke. I am as choked as any Wimbledon or Test supporter — more, because there can be no replay.

But perhaps the lesson, the sheer lip-stiffening practice, is worth it in this comfortable indoor age of virtual reality and lawsuits for emotional distress. We didn't get the Empire by making a fuss about a few inches of unseasonal rain, did we? No, the only thing to do is what I bet the major is doing: to come over all military, stiffen your back, sweep aside the months of wasted work and anticipation, knock back a stiff whisky and say: "Damn shame. Still..."

Still, what? Don't ask. Tradition decrees that you are never required to complete that thought. No plaudits: nous reasoning can ease the great disappointments of life. Just a damn shame. Ah well.

## Libby Purves

## Has democracy a future?

Anatole Kaletsky

on a brief encounter

with liberty

Two weeks ago I was sitting in the Pantheon in Rome, after speaking at a conference on the future of global capitalism. As I stared up at Hadrian's gigantic structure — still Europe's largest self-supporting dome after nearly 2,000 years — I reflected on a conversation I had had the previous day with Antonio Fazio, the head of Italy's central bank.

Over the past two years Signor Fazio has astonished the financial world by reducing Italian inflation below the German level and has seen his institution nicknamed "the Bundesbank of the South". The process of wringing out inflation to qualify for European monetary union has had enormous costs. Unemployment has risen to levels not seen since the 1940s. The excitement about renewing Italian democracy which followed the collapse of the corrupt Christian Democrat oligarchy in the early 1990s has been replaced by disillusioned apathy as old, familiar faces return.

It seemed natural to wonder whether the recent sensational elections in Britain and France would produce similar disappointments for voters. Would the Labour Party restore public services, or help the jobless, if this meant threatening the privileges of the upper middle class? Would the French Socialists attack poverty and unemployment if this required a challenge to the conventional wisdom on "European construction" of the administrative and diplomatic elite?

As I sat staring at the 2,000 years of history, it struck me that Emperor Hadrian would have perfectly understood our modern politicians, who build bureaucratic monuments and new European empires on the backs of the ordinary voters of Marseilles, Manchester or Milan. And the Classical Emperors would not have been the only Romans who would smirk at the shallowness of modern democracy. From the Colosseum to the Vatican and the bizarre fascist structures of EUR, Rome is a monument to the oligarchic concentration of wealth and power.

And Rome is, of course, a microcosm of Western civilisation. Comparing the 2,000-year longevity of the Pantheon to the lifespan of a Disney movie or a Pentium computer, it is hard to resist the idea that equality and democracy may not be the natural human conditions Thomas Jefferson assumed. Which brings me to Hong Kong.

Six million people are moving from Western democracy to communist oligarchy. The lavish celebrations are attended by presidents, monarchs and statesmen. One can see why the Chinese are celebrating, but what about the British, Americans and, above all, the people of Hong Kong? There are plenty of cynical explanations: power politics, opportunism, hypocrisy, post-imperial guilt. But there are also objective indicators — for example the record prices of property — which suggest that Hong Kong's enthusiasm for the communist future may be sincere.

To people carried away by the millennial triumphalism of American-style capitalism, Hong Kong's perverse enthusiasm for the future has a decidedly upbeat explanation. Western-style democracy is the inevitable way of the future. The Hong Kongers know it is just a matter of time before democracy sweeps the whole of China in an onward march of freedom around the world.

But there is a less euphoric explanation. Perhaps the people of Hong Kong do not give two hoots about democracy. They wait after all, ruled by a distant autocracy until the arrival of Chris Patten, and must have shown little interest in politics in the past few years.

Perhaps they value their ethnic identity above their individual freedom. Perhaps the people of Hong Kong simply take it for granted that they will be governed by oligarchs, and hope for nothing more than to get on with their private affairs. Perhaps, indeed, the same indifference to politics is sweeping over Europe as national politics is swallowed by a distant bureaucracy in Brussels: as economic control is handed to unelected central bankers, as moral values are deemed to be outside the political realm; as elections themselves just revolve the door on indistinguishable technocratic coalitions.

The Western optimists believe that Hong Kong's period of communist autocracy will prove but a brief aberration before China itself is eventually swept up by the tide of democracy. But the Chinese and many other Asians have a very different sense of history. The centuries in which democracy has never played a serious part. Zhou Enlai, the late Chinese Prime Minister, was asked on his first state visit to Paris what he thought of the principles of the French Revolution. "It is too early to say," he replied.

As the world prepares for the end of the millennium it is worth reflecting that democracy has prevailed for 50 of the past 2,000 years. Should we then conclude that its triumph is now inevitable around the world? It seems much too early to say.

## Hip, hip

TWO years after she had one hip replaced, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother wants her doctors to set to work on her other one. In November 1995, she had her hip done at the King Edward VII Hospital in London. One of the principal surgeons for that operation was William Muirhead-Allwood, now, after a sex-change operation, known as Sarah.

At the time of her first hip replacement, the Queen Mother's doctors were concerned that she

might be too fragile for the procedure. They were clearly unfamiliar with HRH's constitution. So agile has she been with the one new hip, she thinks it is by no means too late to have the other one brought up to scratch.

Her medical advisers, however, are once again not so sure. At 97, they are concerned that the trauma of another operation might be too much. "She is very determined to have the operation," says my man behind the surgical screen. "And

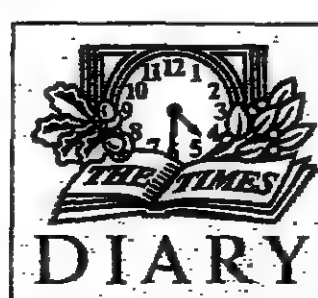
judging from the outcome of her last operation, she knows what's best for herself."

Dr Muirhead-Allwood is still working at the King Edward VII Hospital and since she became a she has performed one such notable as Cardinal Hume. "She remains at the top of her field," says my source of Sarah M-A, and would undoubtedly perform on the Queen Mother if she persists in asking for the operation.

### Deaf ear

NO answer is forthcoming from the Prime Minister's team on why he chose not to use the interpreter when listening to President Jiang Zemin's speech in Chinese on retaking Hong Kong. On each side of him, there was the Prince of Wales, Chris Patten, the former Governor, and Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, all wearing earpieces listening to the English translation of the President's speech. But not Tony Blair.

Does he speak Mandarin perhaps? No, said his press team. Was it a snub then? No, said his press team. Was it perhaps vanity, that he did not want to be snubbed with a wire trailing from his ear? No again. Which leaves the only possible answer, that another earpiece would have interfered with the song



rumoured to be already inserted, which feeds straight back to his officials in No 10.

### Bracing news

IN their search for a successor to Mary Robinson, the Irish President, Ireland's main political parties have been looking north of the border to Mary McAleese, the Catholic Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Queen's University, Belfast. Professor McAleese, who was born in the fiercely nationalist Ardara, is said to have been approached by Fine Gael. Fianna Fáil and the Irish Labour Party about standing as a unity candidate for the post.

Like Robinson, McAleese, who wears braces on her teeth, trained as a lawyer and is not known for pulling her punches. She is a keen critic of the Roman Catholic

Church on account of its lack of accountability and recently said that it was "mischievous, if not quite dangerous" to educate Protestant and Catholic children together.

False expectations are the main hazard at tonight's Tate Gallery centenary dinner, to be attended by Diana, Princess of Wales. Pudding consists of a huge cake. "It's enormous and covered in thousands of coloured lightbulbs," says Anne Beckett-Smith, the organiser of the event. Just one thing. "Oh no. You can't eat it," she says. "It's just to look at."

### Hog boast

FOR the stressed-out Tony, Viscount Cranborne, Leader of the Opposition in the House of Lords, has an alternative to transcendental meditation: pig-keeping. Like P.G. Wodehouse's Lord Emsworth, Cranborne finds nothing so peaceful as leaning his wellingtons against a fence and gazing into his sty. During the election, in which he served as John Major's chief of staff, colleagues said he could instantly dissolve a tense moment with his pig-talk.

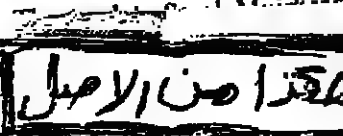
"I have two Tamworth sows and a Large Black sow, called Black Beauty, which my wife gave me for Christmas," says Cranborne.



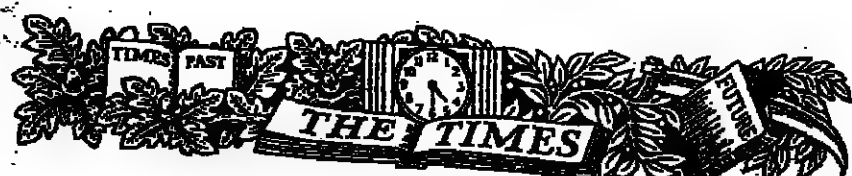
Sow proud: Lord Cranborne

"She's an excellent specimen and recently came third in the Bath and West Show." Even better, the sow appears to be doing its dynastic duty. "Black Beauty's been pregnant twice already," says Cranborne. "When I got her she gave birth to 13 little piglets." Life as a Cranborne pig, however, is not all mud and swirl. "I eat my pigs all the time, they're very good," says their owner. "We're not as sentimental in the country as you townies."

P.H.S.







## WELSH LABOUR

The vital difference between Blair and Davies

Devolution should be an exercise in letting go for Labour in Wales. It is currently a battle to get a grip. The principled arguments in favour of decentralising power to the Principality have been overshadowed by the attempts to impose a centrally dictated line on members of the Welsh Labour Party. The authority which should be conferred by the parliamentary dominance that Labour enjoys in Wales has been undermined by the heavy-handed manner in which that control has been exercised. The Welsh Secretary, Ron Davies, may believe that his MPs should open their mouths only to hymn the party's praises; but they are elected representatives not a male voice choir. The danger for devolutionists is not that Labour may fail to deliver because some backbenchers have honest reservations; it is rather that the Welsh people may have deep doubts about voting for an assembly which could institutionalise the arrogance Mr Davies displays.

The Labour leadership's desire to maintain the discipline which routed the remnants of the Welsh Tory party at the election is understandable. Factionalism and personal jealousies have impeded the party's past effectiveness and it is still haunted by the memory of the 1979 devolution referendum. The then Prime Minister, Jim Callaghan, a Cardiff MP, and the Leader of the House, Valleys Member Michael Foot, had to endure a brilliant campaign of opposition, led by Neil Kinnock, which prompted 80 per cent of those voting to say no. Eighteen years of Conservative rule have, according to the opinion polls, reversed attitudes. Mr Davies, however, appears by his actions not to believe completely in the conversion of his countrymen to the devolutionary cause.

There are three aspects to the manner in which Mr Davies is advancing his case which are the mark of a fixer, not a crusader. First, the Welsh assembly will not enjoy the tax-raising powers intended for its Scottish

sister. It is argued that a body whose aim is to bring a measure of democratic scrutiny to the Welsh Office does not itself need to raise revenue. Tony Blair, however, pointed out in the election that even the lowest parish council can raise taxes. The failure to trust the Cardiff assemblymen with such powers suggests that, in the eyes of the Labour leadership, the Welsh people does not want devolution enough to pay for it.

Secondly, the referendum intended to establish the degree of support that devolution enjoys will take place weeks after a similar vote in Scotland. Officially, the delay is prompted by a recognition that Scottish devolution will dominate debate and Wales needs time to have its needs discussed in detail. Unofficially, the delay is intended to isolate Welsh opposition. It will be a lonelier battle for the "no" campaign if Scotland has already said yes. Labour will not so much ask the Welsh if they want an assembly in its own right as invite them not to forgo what their Celtic cousins have just acquired — a case of keeping up for the Joneses.

Thirdly, Mr Davies appears determined to fight for devolution not by advertising its merits but by demonising its opponents. His anxiety at the prospect of Labour MPs campaigning against an assembly is not motivated primarily by fear that their doubts will carry the day. His anger stems from the sabotage that their dissent does to his best argument, which is, bluntly put, vote "yes" because the Tories are against it.

If Labour MPs have principled objections to devolution then the referendum becomes a vote on the issues rather than a vote on the Tories, and that makes life much more difficult for Mr Davies. Given the lengths to which he has now gone, a defeat in the referendum would be a disaster for Mr Davies, but not Mr Blair, who has deprecated coercion and who has rightly stressed that devolution depends on proper consent.

## END OF EMPIRE

Time to focus on the small responsibilities that remain

Emotion flowed freely in Hong Kong yesterday. For many it was a day of celebration and excitement, pride and patriotic fervour. But for the departing British it was also a moment of nostalgia and regret, sadness and a sense of loss. Not only was the Union Flag lowered for the last time on a colony that was the last substantial remnant of an Empire that once covered the globe, but in their speeches, ceremonies and parting gestures representatives of the Crown, the Government and the Armed Services recalled an almost forgotten sense of duty and responsibility, good government and dedication to the peoples over which Britain once held sway.

Yesterday did not mark the end of Empire; that came in 1947 when Britain granted independence to India. That was the crucial moment when it became clear that a nation exhausted by war could no longer maintain indefinitely its rule over distant possessions. A decade later the independence of Ghana marked a final hectic period of decolonisation as one by one the states of Africa proclaimed their independence. With the loss of Hong Kong, all that remains now are a few small islands, once staging posts of the shipping routes to the colonies; that are either too small or too remote to make their way alone in the world.

There were tears in Hong Kong yesterday. And it was not only Chris Patten who struggled to contain the conflicting emotions. Many Hong Kong Chinese looked back with gratitude on what Britain had done for them, on the good government, rule of law and impartial civil service that has provided a framework for the prosperity of this once barren island. Britons, too, can reflect with pride on what they and their ancestors have contributed not only to Hong Kong but to those dominions and colonies

over which the Union Flag once flew. The years of post-colonial guilt and apology for imperialism have, at last, given way to a more balanced, historical assessment. Even the Chinese, recalling more than 150 years of "national humiliation", admitted this week that British rule was not all bad.

With the fall of communism, European empires have now all been swept away. Some fell in violence and chaos. Belgium and The Netherlands had a poor record and did least to prepare their possessions for independence. Others, such as Germany and Italy, had their colonies seized after defeat in war. France left some countries with good education and strong economy; but Algeria is still suffering from the violence and trauma in which its independence was born. Partition in India, violence in Aden cost millions of lives and blemished Britain's record. But on the whole this country withdrew from its Empire better than most.

With the loss of Hong Kong, Britain, which once administered the biggest Empire the world has ever seen, now has responsibility for fewer than 180,000 people in the remaining dependent territories. France still has three times as many citizens in its overseas *départements*, and has long given them full integration with metropolitan France. For these remaining few, Britain retains political and moral responsibility. Sadly the record here is poor. Drug-taking and money-laundering in the Caribbean, arguments over sovereignty in the Falklands and Gibraltar and the most appalling neglect of St Helena, Britain's Atlantic Alcatraz, betray official irritation at being saddled with these pinpricks from a bygone age. There will be no more transfers of sovereignty. It is time now that the old ideals of Empire were properly applied to the small territories where Britain still holds sway.

## FORTIFY THE CHANCELLOR

There is a symbol and soda in the oddest Budget traditions

Gordon Brown presents Labour's first Budget for 18 years tomorrow. The economics of it will influence the political weather all year. Because Budgets have losers as well as winners, it may bring the Government's honeymoon with its electorate down to earth with a bump. But although the Chancellor is a Roundhead in a hurry, he is still stuck with the quaint traditions of the Budget.

The Chancellor will still be expected to brandish Gladstone's battered old Budget box outside No 11. He will make his ministerial broadcast in the evening. And the press will show an inordinate interest in the contents of his glass of liquid on the dispatch box, which for the only time in the parliamentary year need not be water. The Chancellor should choose his tuppence with care for the message it sends.

Harold Macmillan said that Budget day was "rather like a school speech day — a bit of a bore, but there it is". And in his only Budget, he went along with the drama of parliamentary speech day by fortifying his speech with his native Scottish drink that is stronger than Scotch mist. Disraeli protested that he knew nothing of finance. So as Chancellor he sipped white port to see his through his Budget speech, which must have given him a wicked hangover. Lord Jenkins of Hillhead took brandy and water as a concentrated version of fine claret. The austere Stafford Cripps had nothing

but water in his carafe, and his Budgets were appropriately dispiriting. The Chancellor who demanded gin as a transparent camouflage was put down by Sir Humphrey asking, "Neat, Chancellor?". Nigel Lawson switched from whisky and soda to spritzer. This suited his new slimming diet, as well as being more compatible with keeping the brain working at high speed for long hours. And, as with so much Budget lore, Gladstone started the tradition with his five-hour Budget speeches. His nonconformist supporters might have preferred him to lubricate them with the milk of human kindness. But Gladstone had a grand old British taste for port.

Rhetoric can make the Budget speech tick. But liquor is quicker. The best audience too is intelligent, dressed up for speech day and post-prandial in spirit. Even the new House of Commons should still be able to pass at least one of these qualifications.

According to Enoch Powell, the ideal state for making a speech is to have a half-full bladder to focus the mind and stop the vocal chords from going on too long. But even if the Chancellor does not need anything but water for his big day, he should put a little colouring in it to honour the old tradition. Tomorrow is the one day in the year when the attention of the entire nation is focused on the national economy — as well as what is oiling its steward's throat.

## Praise for Patten's Hong Kong role

From Sir Peter Heap

Sir, Hong Kong's Governor, Chris Patten, continues to be criticised by certain former Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials and others, particularly for the limited extension of democratic government under his administration. As a former FCO official with recent experience in Hong Kong I take a wholly different view.

Chris Patten has done an excellent job, deserving recognition in these last days of office. His critics, including former ambassadors to China, see Hong Kong from a Beijing perspective; they see it as a relatively small city in the vastness of China and as a possible irritant in the larger picture of Anglo-Chinese relations that must be smoothed at almost any price.

Patten has been perceptive enough to see other important dimensions. Above all there was his duty to the people of Hong Kong. He could not, should not and, to his credit, did not, ignore their aspirations. When Martin Lee's Democratic Party swept the elections shortly before his arrival this sent a message that no British governor, in any colony at any time, should have ignored. Our colonial history gave him plenty of guidance on what happens when you try to put the lid on such pressures. Patten's consistently high popularity among the people of Hong Kong showed that they understood this.

Patten also understood that Hong Kong has a concentration of British interests, investments, trade, British citizens, not matched by the whole of China. He had to stand up for these interests, even if that sometimes appeared to rock the boat.

The modest extension of democracy in electing the Legislative Council was not the result of a rush of blood during Patten's first month. A well researched study for Chatham House earlier this year shows that it was something that Britain had been trying to do for some time previously.

That Hong Kong is being handed over in good order owes much to Chris Patten. This country, the people of Hong Kong, and the FCO should be grateful.

Yours etc,  
PETER HEAP  
(Senior Trade Commissioner,  
Hong Kong, 1989-92,  
6 Carleton Mansions,  
Carleton Place, SW1,  
June 28.

From Mr B. Chong

Sir, There is one bit of good news about the handover, sadly the only one. The seed of democracy, open government, media accessibility and public accountability has been sown.

Once people have a taste of freedom, they know what is good or bad. I write as one whose family fled China for Hong Kong to avoid communist persecution in the 1950s.

Yours faithfully,  
B. CHONG,  
102 Greenhill Road,  
Winchester, Hampshire.  
June 27.

## 'Lunchtime' abortion

From Ms Jane Bloomfield

Sir, We should not confuse the difficulty of taking the decision to terminate a pregnancy with the unpleasantness of the surgical procedure (report, "Lunchtime abortion on offer", later editions, June 28).

Any development which reduces the trauma caused by the operation should be welcomed, or do we want to further punish women for their mistakes?

Yours faithfully,  
JANE BLOOMFIELD,  
22 Carrick Close, Cambridge.  
jlacamb@mpc.co.uk  
June 30.

## Final frontier

From Mrs Yve Menzies

Sir, It is wrong to say (Dr Graeme Archer's letter, June 27) that it is a criminal offence not to carry your passport as a foreigner in Italy. If, as it appears, Dr Archer is a resident Italian driving licence will be accepted as identification; and, as an Italian resident, he would be entitled to an Italian identity card, although this could not be used out of Italy.

From Milan due west to the border with France is one of the most important drug routes in Italy. It is small wonder the police stop cars. Dr Archer describes them as heavy-handed and largely ineffectual, but the Carabinieri anti-drug squads have an enviable reputation throughout Europe in combating the proliferation of drugs.

In over fifteen years, in common with most foreigners, I have never been asked for my identity card, let alone my passport, except when flying back to the UK.

Yours faithfully,  
YVE MENZIES,  
Villa Galanta,  
18030 Perinaldo (IM), Italy.  
June 29.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## West must 'put own house in order'

From Dr Robin Russell-Jones

Sir, President Clinton's failure to deliver any targets for reducing carbon-dioxide emissions (report, June 24; letters June 25, 26) betrays a cynical disregard for the welfare of future generations. His position is indefensible, for the scientific case is overwhelming and his own Vice-President has written extensively on the need to combat global warming.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBIN RUSSELL-JONES,  
Atholl House, Church Lane,  
Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire.  
June 29.

From Mrs Uta Bellion

Sir, Your proposal (leading article, June 24) that rich nations should pay for cuts in poor countries' emissions is fundamentally flawed. It is still the industrialised countries which have the highest per capita emissions. The G8 nations alone, accounting for only 12.2 per cent of the world's population, contribute 47 per cent to global carbon-dioxide emissions (21 per cent alone from the US).

"Joint implementation", as your proposal is usually described, will allow these countries to avoid taking measures to achieve reductions in emissions at home, many of which would be beneficial economically, socially and environmentally.

Industrialised countries must put their own house in order first, investing in cost-effective energy efficiency, clean, renewable energy supplies like wind, wave and solar, along with other measures, of which there are many. Investments like these not only dramatically cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions; they will create tens of thousands of jobs in the UK alone. Leadership like this can set an example to the rest of the world and become the basis for substantive global CO<sub>2</sub> emission cuts at December's climate-change convention in Kyoto.

Yours truly,  
UTA BELLION  
(Policy Director),  
Friends of the Earth,  
26-28 Underwood Street, NI.  
June 27.

From Dr Georgina Green

Sir, The idea put forward by the governing body of Formula One (report, June 12) that motorists should offset

their carbon emissions by paying for the planting of trees, thus removing the need to tackle carbon emissions, is nonsensical.

Global climate change from increased atmospheric carbon is the single biggest threat facing this planet. The increase comes from the use of fossil fuels, and it is that which has to be tackled.

Tree plantations effect a net removal of carbon only in their early years, when they are growing rapidly. In order that the carbon isn't rereleased into the atmosphere, the mature forest has to be left untouched for eternity. More and more new trees would always be needed and the area under forest would have to increase indefinitely.

Whilst an increase in forest cover (in the right circumstances) is highly desirable, tree-planting is not an alternative to reducing our emissions. Donating £10 to a tree-planting scheme cannot buy motorists a licence to pollute; measures to cut car use and encourage more sustainable modes of transport are essential.

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGINA GREEN,  
Friends of the Earth,  
26-28 Underwood Street, NI.

From Mr Adrian Hilton

Sir, The plea by Mr Dirk Jones (letter, June 25) to zero-rate those items which encourage saving (insulation, glass, solar heating, etc) is totally unrealistic, because the tax (unconstitutionally) is unrepealable. The Chancellor confirmed this when he was asked in a radio interview last October about Labour's plans for VAT on fuel and replied: "I'd like to remove it altogether, but it can't be done."

It was the Labour Government in 1977 which signed the sixth VAT directive to standardise the VAT base throughout Europe, and since Labour is committed to finalising the single market by 1998, both the VAT base and VAT rates will need to be harmonised. Britain can only be as "green" with VAT as Brussels allows.

Yours faithfully,  
ADRIAN HILTON  
(Parliamentary candidate  
for Stratford-upon-Avon,  
Referendum Party, 1997),  
Priory House, Amersham Road,  
Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire.  
June 25.

## Green city traffic

From the Public Policy Manager of the AA

Sir, The aim of city-centre pedestrianisation should be to keep the car out and get the car occupants in ("Green cities drive out plague of cars", report, June 25).

But even in Freiburg, the city on the edge of the Black Forest featured in your report, the car still has an important role to play.

Reporting on a visit there two years ago, the House of Commons Environment Select Committee said: "80 per cent of the population around Freiburg uses the car to shop in the city... They (the city authorities) believe that parking has to be provided for retail businesses to remain profitable."

Pedestrianisation does provide a good shopping environment. But as important is access by quality public transport linked to park-and-ride facilities that meet the modern consumer's expectations.

Cities like Freiburg have invested in alternatives to the car, and their citizens enjoy public transport services that we can only envy. If we are to achieve similar sustainable and acceptable transport policies in this country, we must end the chronic underfunding of all forms of transport.

Yours faithfully,  
BERT MORRIS,  
Public Policy Manager,  
The Automobile Association,  
Norfolk House, Priestley Road,  
Basingstoke, Hampshire.

## BBC World Service

From Ms Amina Jilani

Sir, Mr Jeffrey Dudgeon (letter, June 23) may be right about "most foreign listeners" to the World Service not being interested in hearing about their own country, but here in Pakistan, and the same may be true for other Third World countries, the BBC World Service — especially the English service — is an important source of information about our own country.

While our press is relatively free, television and radio are totally state-controlled and thus often uninformative.

During our frequent national crises we rely totally on the BBC to tell us what is happening from hour to hour.

Yours etc,  
AMINA JILANI,  
93 Clifton, Karachi 75600, Pakistan.  
ac@xib.com  
June 26.

From Mrs Jocelyn Hay, Chairman of Voice of the Listener and Viewer

Sir, In view of the important role the BBC World Service plays in disseminating impartial news throughout the world, one of our concerns is that it has become an integral part of the BBC's commercial arm. We fear that its priorities may have changed from

maximising audience reach to maximising profits.

In order to mark our concern we, together with the United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, are holding a public meeting at Central Hall, Westminster, on July 17, at which the deputy managing director of the World Service will be speaking.

Yours faithfully,  
JOCELYN HAY,  
Chairman, Voice of the Listener and Viewer,  
101 King's Drive, Gravesend, Kent.  
June 27.

From Professor Emeritus J. T. Coppock

Sir, Mr Dudgeon wants Radio 4 re-broadcast on the World Service. May I suggest, as a regular listener to *Newsday* and *Newsweek*, that the reverse is more appropriate.

I listen with interest to the balanced presentation of real news and then perforce hear the progressively down-market contributions of Radio 4. Of course, this is only following the trend in the press of highlighting any sexual or financial peccadillo, however trivial.

Yours faithfully,  
J. T. COPPOCK,  
57 Braid Avenue, Edinburgh.  
June 24.

## Worth the wait

From Mr Frederick Costick

Sir, I should like to congratulate Benedict Nightingale for one phrase in his review of *Waiting for Godot* at the Old Vic (June 30):

... a cross-section of fallible humanity waiting in an infinitely insecure world for an infinitely improbable salvation.

It is so succinct but all-embracing that it virtually eliminates the need to go and see the play. As a teacher of French literature, I used to plough through acres of soggy commentary in the hope of finding such a treasure.

FRED COSTICK,  
3 High View Court,  
Silverdale Road, Eastbourne, Sussex.  
June 30.

## Summer's chill

From Mr R. W. Butler

Sir, "The bullfrog breed" indeed (leading article, June 28). Last night I attended the Bradford College Greek play in the open-air Greek theatre. By the time it finished at about 11pm I was wearing a mixture of cricket, skiing, shooting, fishing, boating and even commuting gear.

Henley is clearly going to be a challenge if this weather continues. By the way, the play was superb.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD BUTLER,  
Martens House,  
Willow Lane,  
Wargrave, Berkshire.  
June 29.

## Unemployment and crash of 1929

From Sir John Walley

Sir, The 1929 stock market crash must have had many disastrous consequences but Lord Rees-Mogg ("Nemesis on Wall Street", June 26) is wrong in thinking that the collapse of Ramsay MacDonald's Labour Government was one of them.

Rees-Mogg was then only a very small child. But I was there as an official of their charming Minister of Labour, Margaret Bondfield, preparing a Bill for the 40-hour week. It might indeed have been new Labour! What brought that Government down was nothing to do with the City or the stock market: it was the need to reduce the rates of unemployment benefit by about 10 per cent to match a long fall in prices and wages since the rates had been fixed by the first MacDonald Government.

It was a very difficult issue for a Labour Government with strong trade union links and when Miss Bondfield brought it to Cabinet, months before the crash, her paper was ordered to be removed from the Cabinet records. But John Maynard Keynes, then chief economic adviser, and his colleagues had the same idea and it came back to them in the first report of the Royal Commission on Unemployment Insurance, which they themselves had appointed.

It was this report which led to the break-up of MacDonald's second Government, not any stock market crisis; and it was the endorsement of the drastic cuts of pay as well as unemployment insurance benefit by the National Government and their endorsement by the people at the 1931 election which set us on the road to recovery. But I cannot see any link with new Labour's prospects.

Yours truly,  
JOHN WALLEY  
(Deputy Secretary,  
Ministry of Pensions and  
National Insurance, 1938-66),  
Brookland House, 24 High Street,  
Cottenham, Cambridgeshire.  
June 26.

## Omnibus time

From Mr Paul Twyman

Sir, Your leading article ("Omnibus time", June 26) paints such a rosy picture of bus operations in London that I can only assume that you do not use the buses in my part of the metropolis.

The contractual arrangements between London Buses Ltd and the individual operating companies — which, interestingly, ministers want to keep secret on spurious grounds of commercial confidentiality (*Hansard*, written answers, June 19) — are sadly deficient, particularly in relation to timekeeping and route supervision. Effective monitoring of performance is almost entirely lacking, customer complaints procedures seem designed to choke off complaints rather than to provide useful management information.

The bus operators are forever blaming traffic congestion. This is obviously a problem — but this does not explain why buses start their journeys early, nor why so many cancellations occur due to engineering problems and lack of buses.

Waiting for a bus for 50 minutes at the end of my road — on an inner-city route — does not lead me to conclude that London bus regulation is a model for anything — just a way of cutting costs at the expense of the customer.

Yours faithfully,  
PAUL TWYMAN  
(Under-Secretary,  
Department of Transport, 1985),  
11 Finsbury Road, SE5.  
June 27.

## Dormice or Labour?

From Mr G. F. Axe

Sir, The new Labour Government was elected to eliminate droughts ("Is it dormice, or is Labour to blame?", report, June 28). It has ended the drought of ineffectual Tory rule, the drought of British sporting success and the weather drought of early spring. What more could you want?

Yours etc,  
G. F. AXE,  
81 Upper Road, Kennington, Oxford.

## Lions' victory

From Mr Oliver Stogdon

Sir, Does not the British Lions' victory (reports, June 30) in South Africa make a great case against the proposed devolution of Scotland and Wales?

Yours sincerely,  
OLIVER STODDON,  
Lands Cottage, Swerford,  
Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire.

## Self-regulation

From Mr Peter Calver

Sir, I note from today's *Appointments* supplement that the DTI is seeking members for the Low Pay Commission.

Apparently commissioners will be unpaid. Well, that should concentrate the mind.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER CALVER,  
Star Cottage,  
10 Wicken Road, Newport, Essex.  
June 26.





## COURT CIRCULAR

**RIDEAU HALL, OTTAWA**  
June 30: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh left Toronto this morning and flew to Jack Garland Airport, North Bay.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness visited J.K.S. Boyle, a diamond drill manufacturer, at North Bay and were received by the President (Mr Robert Parsons).  
Later The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were entertained to luncheon by the Premier of Ontario (the Hon Michael Harris) at Canadore College of Applied Arts and Technology.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness this afternoon left Toronto for Ottawa and were received at Macdonald Carleton International Airport, Ottawa, by the Governor General (the Rt Hon Roméo LeBlond).

The Queen, Colonel-in-Chief, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, later presented a new Colour to the Governor General's Foot Guards at the Cricketer Pitch, Rideau Hall, and were received by the Honorary Colonel (Colonel the Hon Conrad Black) and the Commanding Officer (Lieutenant Colonel R. Hillier).

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness subsequently attended a reception in the Garden.  
The Duke of Edinburgh, President, The Duke of Edinburgh's Commonwealth Study Conference, this evening attended a dinner at Parliament Hill with the organising committee of the 1998 Conference.

The Lord Kingsdown KG (Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Kent) was present at Royal Air Force Museum this morning upon the Arrival of The Queen of Denmark and welcomed Her Majesty on behalf of The Queen.  
ST JAMES'S PALACE  
June 30: The Prince of Wales this morning visited the British Council Building, Hong Kong.

His Royal Highness afterwards presented Chevening Scholarships to students at the British Trade Commission.

The Prince of Wales later opened the Community English Language Laboratory at Talkoo Shing.

His Royal Highness this afternoon received the Rt Hon Anthony Blair MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) on board HMV Britannia.  
The Prince of Wales afterwards attended the British Farewell Ceremony at the East Tamar reclamation site.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a Reception and Banquet given by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (the Rt Hon Robin Cook MP) at the Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The Prince of Wales later took part in the official Handover Ceremony at the Convention Centre.  
Finally, His Royal Highness departed Hong Kong on board HMV Britannia.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
June 30: The Princess Royal, Patron, Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, accompanied by Captain Timothy Laurence RN, this morning visited Jersey Zoo, Trinity, and was received by the Lieutenant-Governor of Jersey (General Sir Michael Wilkes).  
Her Royal Highness later opened the new airport buildings at Jersey Airport, St Peter.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
June 30: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon was present at this evening at a Reception to celebrate the Two Hundredth Anniversary of Hatched at 187 Piccadilly, London W1.

**YORK HOUSE**  
June 30: The Duke of Kent, Patron, this evening attended the Race Evening on behalf of the Army Benevolent Fund at Windsor Racecourse and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire (Mr Philip Wright).

The Duchess of Kent this afternoon attended the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club Wimbledon Championships, London SW19.

**Today's royal engagements**  
Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will attend the festival service of the Friends of St Paul's, St Paul's Cathedral, at 4.55.

The Princess Royal, as president, Missions to Seamen, will attend the annual service and luncheon and preside at the annual meeting at St Michael Paternoster Royal, College Hill, EC4, at 11.30; as patron, British Executive Service Overseas, will attend a volunteers garden party at Marlborough House, at 3.45; and as president, Riding for the Disabled Association, will attend the grand summer charity ball at the London Hilton on Park Lane at 7.45.

Princess Margaret, as president, will attend a performance by the Royal Ballet, the Birmingham Royal Ballet and the Royal Ballet School at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden at 7.25 to mark the school's fifty years at Barons Court

and to mark the centenary year of Dame Ninette de Valois.  
The Duke of Gloucester will visit the Royal Agricultural Society of England Show, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, at 11.15.

The Duke of Kent will attend the Wimbledon Championships at 12.30; as president, Wellington College, will attend a reception at Aspley House, at 7.00; and as president, will attend an Automobile Association Committee dinner, at Brooks's, at 7.40.

**Dinner**  
Gold of Freedom of the City of London  
Sir Anthony Grant, Master of the Guild of Freeman of the City of London, presided at a dinner held last night at the London Hilton on Park Lane.

**Birthdays today**  
Diana, Princess of Wales, celebrates her 36th birthday today.

Mr Dan Aykroyd, actor, 45; Sir Alan Campbell, diplomat, 78; Miss Leslie Caron, actress, 66; Mr Wayne David, MEP, 40; Miss Olivia de Havilland, actress, 81; Mr Trevor Eve, actor, 46; Lady Faulkner of Downpatrick, 72; Sir Colin Fisher, civil servant, 72; Lord Gishborough, 70; Mr Hans Werner Herzog, composer, 71; Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John Hugo, former Gentleman Usher to the Queen, 98; Sir Peter Hunt, chairman and managing director, Land Securities, 64.

Viscount Leverhulme, KG, 82; Mr Carl Lewis, athlete, 36; Sir Kenneth Lewis, former MP, 81; the Marquess of Linlithgow, 51; Miss Jean Marsh, actress, 63; Professor Stephen Neidle, Academic Dean, Institute of Cancer Research, 51; General Sir Thomas Pearson, 83; Miss Joan Sadler, former Principal, Cheltenham Ladies College, 70; Mr Gary Schofield, rugby league player, 32; Mr Peter Walwyn, racehorse trainer, 64; the Very Rev Alan Webster, former Dean of St Paul's, 79.

**Greater London**  
**Lieutenancy**  
Field Marshal Sir John Chapple to be Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London.

**Anniversaries**  
BIRTHS: George Sand (Amandine Dupin), novelist, Paris, 1804; Louis Brierli, pioneer aviator, first to fly across the Channel (1907), Cambrai, France, 1872; Isaac Babal, novelist, Odessa, 1894; Charles Laughton, actor, Scarborough, 1897; Sir Seretse Khama, 1st President of Botswana 1960-80, Serowe, Bechuanaland, 1921.

DEATHS: John Bradford, Protestant martyr, burnt at the stake, London, 1535; Allen Pinkerton, founder of the American detective agency, Chicago, 1894; Harriet Beecher Stowe, novelist, Hartford, Connecticut, 1896; George Watts, painter, Compton, Surrey, 1904; Erik Satie, composer, Paris, 1925; Juan Peron, President of Argentina 1946-55 and 1973-74, Buenos Aires, 1974.

The Battle of the Boyne was fought, when the forces of King William III defeated those of King James II, 1690.  
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The dominion of Canada was established, 1867.  
The Union of South Africa became a dominion, 1910.  
The first Battle of the Somme began, 1916.

**Society of Young**  
**Freemasons**  
Mr Alderman and Sheriff Clive H. Martin has been appointed President of the Society of Young Freemasons for the ensuing year. Mr Michael V. Cooper has been elected chairman and Miss Vicki Hill, vice-chairman.

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Royal Society of Health  
Dr. Basil Qureshi has been elected Chairman of the Council of the Royal Society of Health.

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David Christopher John Paget, QC, to be a circuit judge assigned to the South Eastern Circuit.

**Retirements**  
Judge Agilnoy and Judge Howe retired yesterday from the South Eastern Circuit bench.



Lord Snowdon yesterday in the replanted gardens of Nymans House, his childhood home in Sussex

## Lord Snowdon's family garden flourishes again

LORD Snowdon went back yesterday to his childhood home, Nymans, nearly ten years after the great storm of October 1987 laid waste one of the greatest gardens in the Sussex Weald, developed over the years by the Messel family. Three quarters of the trees at Nymans were lost including some of the country's rarest living species and some of its oldest, such as the great monkey puzzle tree in front of the house. Now the garden has fully recovered, using money from the £2 million raised in the National Trust's storm appeal. Some areas have been restored and replanted, the rose garden replanted, and cuttings, taken from fallen trees, have been planted exactly where their predecessors stood, including a monkey puzzle tree.



Damaged trees near the summerhouse at Nymans after the storm of October 1987

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**Retirements**  
Judge Agilnoy and Judge Howe retired yesterday from the South Eastern Circuit bench.

## School news

**Birkdale School, Sheffield**  
The Governors have appointed Mr Robert J. Court as Head Master of Birkdale School in September 1998 on the retirement of the Rev Michael D.A. Hepworth. Mr Court is at present Second Master of Westminster School.

**Leeds Grammar School**  
Term ends on Friday, July 4, when the school will leave its present site at Birkdale Road, Leeds, for its new 128-acre site at Alwoodley Gates, on the Harrogate Road out of Leeds, on Thursday, September 11th. The Old Leedsians Association's dinner will be held at Crags Lane on Friday, October 3 and Open Morning will be on Saturday, October 4.

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**Church news**  
The Rev Michael Collier, Vicar, Hope and Castleton (Derby): to retire November 30.  
The Rev Eric Hayden, Priest-in-Charge, Tishhead, Orcheston and Chelmsley (Salisbury): to retire July 1.  
The Rev Frederick Kenyon, Priest-in-Charge, Ashington w South Farnbridge, and Priest-in-Charge, Starnbridge (Chelmsford): to retire November 1.  
Canon David Letcher, Team Vicar, Dorchester Team Ministry (Salisbury): to retire September 31.  
The Rev Jen Levering, Team Minister, Ashington (Chelmsford): to retire December 31.  
The Rev Neville Minshall, Rector, All Saints, Worthen: Holy Trinity, Hope, All Saints, Shelf: Holy Trinity, Middleton-in-Cheshire (Hereford): to retire July 31.  
The Rev David Munton, Rector, Ottham w Langley (Canterbury): to retire September 30.  
The Rev Peter Nayler, Rector, Ecton, and Warden of Ecton House (Peterborough): to retire July 31.  
The Rev John Pearce, Rector, St

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## OBITUARIES

## MAJOR-GENERAL WILLIAM ODLING

Major-General William Odling, CB, OBE, MC, former Chief of Staff Far East Land Forces, died on June 22 aged 88. He was born on June 8, 1909.

Bill Odling won his Military Cross during the British invasion of Madagascar in May 1942. He commanded the Royal Artillery in the task force charged with wresting control of the island from the Vichy French in order to protect the Cape route and the Indian Ocean from the Japanese.

Starting out with only ten guns, he built up a total of 80, improvising crews to man those captured from the French. Then after his main observation post had been destroyed and his signaller had been killed, he personally reorganised the batteries, racing from one location to another by motorcycle and boat. The citation for the MC he was awarded for his leadership read: "The energy, efficiency, amazing mobility and disregard for his personal safety shown by Acting Lieutenant-Colonel Odling did more than anything else to make the limited and mixed artillery units work to the complete satisfaction of the infantry commanders."

But Odling had several close shaves. One night he was on his way to see the admiral on board the

battleship *Ramillies* in the harbour at Diego Suarez in northern Madagascar when the battleship and a merchantman nearby were torpedoed in front of him by a Japanese two-man submarine in one of the most daring midgeet submarine exploits of the entire war. The tanker sank and *Ramillies* was severely damaged.

Odling, who had also won congratulations from Scotland Yard two years before by apprehending a German spy masquerading as a Naafi inspector, was selected after his return from Madagascar to join the planning team for D-Day. He crossed the Channel himself towards the end of June 1944, and was subsequently given command of an experimental anti-aircraft regiment equipped with 54 Oerlikon three-barrelled guns, each mounted on a three-ton truck. They successfully protected the crossing of the Nijmegen bridge, next to Arnhem, and spent some time near Antwerp shooting down V-1 "doodle-bugs" near their launch sites.

In March 1945 he was ordered to range his guns along the Rhine to help secure the Allied crossing against not only German aircraft but also their infantry, artillery, and floating mines. He distributed nearly 1,000 shovels and half-a-dozen grinders, and marshalled every driver, clerk and cook, to help the gun crews hone the shovels razor-sharp before digging the

guns and their trucks into the hard ground. By dawn only one gun, positioned on rock, was above ground. That gun, together with its crew, was the only one lost in the ensuing action — in which six decorations for gallantry were won by Odling's men.

William Odling, who was himself mentioned in dispatches, was born at St Peter Port, Guernsey, where his father, an army officer, was serving at the time. But the family's roots were in Lincolnshire, where the Odlings were thought to have come over with the Vikings.

But in the more recent past there was no strong martial presence in his background. Both of Bill Odling's grandfathers were Oxford dons, and a great-grandfather on his mother's side was the 19th-century composer Sterndale Bennett — friend and protégé of Mendelssohn and Schumann. His own father had been an Oxford undergraduate hured into the Army by the promise of a commission in the Boer War.

It was generally assumed, however, that Bill Odling would become a soldier. Accordingly, he passed from Wellington College, where he was unhappy, to the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, before being commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1929.

He spent most of the 1930s with the Royal Horse Artillery in India, which he loved. He played polo,



raced in steeplechases, won prizes for pig-sticking, and rode around the jungle on an elephant. He was mentioned on his return in 1938 to find himself posted to Stockport, then to Rhyll.

followed by nearly two years in Hong Kong.

While in the War Office in London in the early 1930s, he was dispatched briefly to Algiers to help organise relief for British soldiers and their families, rescued from the troop ship *Windrush* after she caught fire in the Mediterranean.

While serving as a brigadier on the staff of Eastern Command in Hounslow between 1959 and 1961, he "flabbergasted" the Women's Royal Army Corps by discharging some two dozen lesbians — an afternoon's work which would provoke even greater reverberations today.

Promoted to major-general, Odling left for Singapore in 1961 to take charge of administration with Far East Land Forces for a year, before taking over as Chief of Staff, Confrontation with Indonesia in Borneo began while he was there.

After leaving the Army in 1964, Odling devoted the rest of his life to voluntary work. He also chaired two committees for the Ministry of Defence, producing two "Odling Reports" which helped to draw demarcation lines between the responsibilities of several regiments and corps.

He worked for, among other organisations, the Royal Association for the Deaf and Dumb, his parish church, and the Chelmsford diocese. Essex conservation groups and his local Conservative association.

Still more conspicuously, he helped to establish the English Speaking Union's Eastern Counties organisation and launched its very successful speaking competition for schools. He became a Deputy Lieutenant for Essex in 1975.

Odling had a strong, outgoing personality and abundant energy. He tended to tell people (including his superiors) what he thought — and not necessarily what they wanted to hear. He had a great sense of fun, liked practical jokes and quickly became the focal point of any party.

He was an accomplished sailor who frequently crossed the North Sea in his 27ft boat, and once even sailed to Finland. A purist, he kept strictly to sail and only reluctantly ever used the engine. He had served as commodore of the Atlantic Yacht Owners Association. Another hobby was bricklaying, a skill he had learnt on his resettlement course before leaving the Army. He personally rebuilt the Home Barn beside his 600-year-old house near Colchester, which had been damaged by a V-1 during the war.

He met his wife Margaret while in hospital in India with a poisoned finger. The man in the bed next to him had become engaged to her sister, who subsequently effected introductions. They married in 1939, and she survives him, as do two daughters and a son.

## VISCOUNT YOUNGER OF LECKIE

Edward George Younger, 3rd Viscount Younger of Leckie, died on June 25 aged 90. He was born on November 21, 1906.

EDWARD YOUNGER was born into what is sometimes called the Scottish hierarchy — those families who made their original fortunes in brewing and played a leading role in public life, either as politicians or benefactors. But the political game missed him and he sat in the House of Lords, which he attended regularly, as a crossbencher.

Although he might not have called himself a Tory, he did exemplify the party's older "One Nation" values. He was a Keynesian with little taste for the doctrines of the radical Right and thought that the privileges of social leadership were accompanied by responsibilities that could not be discarded even when they were burdensome.

During the war he proved himself a brilliant staff officer. After that, he gave up his boardroom career in brewing on a matter of principle and thereafter lived out of the limelight, but remained ener-



getic in his forestry, his public duties as Lord-Lieutenant of Stirling and Falkirk and his diverse charitable interests.

"Teddy" Younger's grandfather, the 1st Viscount whose name lives on in the label of the beer first brewed in Alloa in the 18th century, was an MP and active politician. His father, the 2nd Viscount, thought politics an undigni-

fied distraction from shooting. Something of the father's contempt for politicians rubbed off on the son, although at New College, Oxford, where he went after Winchester, he became keenly interested in economics, absorbing Keynesian principles from such tutors as Harold Salvendy.

The war found him at the

height of his powers, and he showed an unusual gift for staff work: not many TA officers rose to the rank of full colonel. Even in adversity, at the beginning of the war, he demonstrated presence of mind and resourcefulness.

His regiment, the 7th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, was cut off by Panzers west of Dieppe. As a staff captain he happened to be on a motorcycle taking a message to brigade headquarters. He was able to escape from Le Havre with the Ark Force and helped to organise the recovery of some arms. The first his family knew of his safe return was when he phoned home from Gables Camp, Troon.

He was appointed OBE (m) in 1940 and thereafter served under Major-General Douglas Wimberley and then General Sir Alan Cunningham in Northern Ireland. He showed all the virtues required of a staff officer — industry, mastery of detail, personal charm, straight dealing and reliability. His experiences in Northern Ireland left him with a pessimistic view of attempts to secure peace.

In 1946 he inherited the title

and the family estates at Leckie near Stirling. For a time he concentrated on dairy farming, before switching to beef and arable and, later, to forestry. At the same time he was absorbed in the Byzantine politics of the then highly fragmented Scottish brewing industry, undergoing rapid and painful structural change.

It was the age of the big breweries, including his own George Younger of Alloa and other honoured old names like Murphys, Aitkens and Fowlers, came together in a federation that was transmuted, under the reorganising influence of Caledonian and then Tennent Caledonian, into straight amalgamation.

In 1962 the new directors decided that the Alloa brewery should close. Younger felt this was a betrayal of promises to the local workforce. He considered his position carefully. His son George, later Margaret Thatcher's Defence Secretary and subsequently the life peer Lord Younger of Prestwick, advised him against resignation. But resign he did, quietly and without fuss.

He devoted the rest of his life to his family, his public duties as Lord-Lieutenant and to membership of the House of Lords.

He was particularly upset in 1972 when in an epilogue to the student unrest which had shaken Europe, demonstrations took place during a visit by the Queen to Stirling University. Students shouted slogans and banged on windows; he thought their conduct not only deplorable but unforgivably rude and, as the Queen's host for the day, held himself in some way accountable.

He now devoted his talents to the charitable sector. He was a trustee of the Nuffield Foundation and chairman of the Scottish Multiple Sclerosis Society. He was also active in the charity Crossroads, which cares for the chronically ill.

Although himself not enamoured of politics, he watched with great interest the careers first of his brother Kenneth Younger, who served as Minister of State under Ernest Bevin at the Foreign Office in 1950-51, and then of his son George, who was to become, first, Scottish Secretary and then Defence Secretary.

His wife Evelyn McClure died in 1983. He is survived by Lord Younger of Prestwick, his heir who now succeeds to the viscountcy, and by two other sons and a daughter.

## VITTORIO MUSSOLINI

Vittorio Mussolini, son of the Italian Fascist leader, died in Rome on June 12 aged 81. He was born in Milan in 1916.

THE career of Vittorio Mussolini was of a piece with that moral myopia to which Italians are prone when it comes to contemplating their role in the events leading up to and including the Second World War. He had bombed Ethiopian tribesmen with relish. He flew for France in the Spanish Civil War. He was an unashamed apologist for Nazism and after 1943 spent most of the rest of the war comfortably in Germany. Later he had spent much of his time trying to restore his father's reputation in a stream of books and articles.

In Italian eyes these unpala- table facts are somehow redeemed because of his contribution to the cinema, through his scriptwriting and directing activities, and his editorship of the magazine *Cinema*. He had, too, voiced his opposition to the race laws passed by his father — though in his position that was not, presumably, a very hazardous thing to have done. Certainly his claim that Mussolini never knew about Hitler's programme of genocide against the Jews must be dismissed as ludicrous.

Vittorio Mussolini was Benito Mussolini's eldest son. He was reputedly the intellectual of the family, and his privileged position as the Duce's son enabled him to indulge a passion for films which gripped him from an early age. As a teenager he organised daily showings of the latest offerings from the cinema at the Mussolini family home, the

Villa Torlonia in Rome.

As a young man he took a commission in the Italian Air Force and served as a bomber pilot during Italy's campaign to subjugate Abyssinia in 1935. In his memoirs he describes his glee at observing the devastating effect of the anti-personnel bombs he dropped on groups of tribesmen. The 1938 film *Luciano Serra, Pilota*, which he co-scripted with Goffredo Alessandrini and Roberto Rossellini, was a homage to the "bravery" of Italian pilots in that one-sided conflict. Vittorio also founded a production company and backed documentaries by Rossellini as well as Vittorio de Sica's first film *Rose Scarlate* (1939).

But he retained his air force commission, flying missions on the Nationalist side against the Republicans in Spain during the Civil War. He also, as befitted the playboy son of Italy's dictator, took part in a prewar run of the famous Mille Miglia (thousand mile) car race, which was run on the country's roads. But his chief claim to fame in this period is his editing of the magazine *Cinema*, in which to his credit, he gave space to a wide range of political and cultural opinion.

During the Second World War he continued with these activities, but after the fall of the Mussolini regime and the arrest of his father in the wake of the Allied invasion of Sicily in 1943, he was invited to Germany by Hitler. From Rastenburg, the Führer's East Prussian headquarters, he set up a propaganda station which broadcast to the Italian people, exhorting them to continue to resist the Allies.

When Otto von Skorzeny's Waffen SS troops daringly rescued Mussolini from his mountain-top prison and spirited him to Germany, Vittorio was waiting at Rastenburg to welcome his father. He returned with him to Italy late in 1944 to help him to establish the last-ditch puppet republic of Salò on the shores of Lake Garda.

At the end of the war he was lucky not to be captured like his father: as the Allies advanced towards the Alpine passes he escaped on one of the last convoys of cars to elude pursuit. On April 26, 1945, the Duce was captured with his mistress, Clara Petacci, by Italian partisans at Lake Como. The pair were unceremoniously executed two days later and their bodies taken to Milan where they were hung upside down on meat hooks in one of the city's squares.

In 1947 Vittorio thought it politic to leave Italy for South America. He went first to Uruguay before settling in Argentina where he became South American correspondent for the newspaper *Il Secolo d'Italia* and subsequently ran several restaurants. But in 1959 he felt it safe to return to Italy. He had kept in contact with the leaders of the neo-Fascist Movimento Sociale d'Italia and, settling in northern Italy, devoted himself to trying to rehabilitate his father, through a number of books, notably the disingenuous memoir *Vita col Padre* ("Life with Father"), which appeared in 1957.

Vittorio Mussolini is survived by his second wife Monica, and by four children of his first marriage.



Benito Mussolini in 1935, with his sons Vittorio, right, and Bruno

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## WHO BREAKS A BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL?

MR. JAGGER has been sentenced to imprisonment for three months. He is appealing against conviction and sentence, and has been granted bail until the hearing of the appeal later in the year. In the meantime, the sentence of imprisonment is bound to be widely discussed by the public. And the circumstances are sufficiently unusual to warrant some discussion in the public interest.

MR. JAGGER was charged with being in possession of four tablets containing amphetamine sulphate and methylamphetamine hydrochloride: these tablets had been brought, perfectly legally, in Italy and brought back to this country. They are not a highly dangerous drug, or in proper dosage a dangerous drug at all.

In Britain, it is an offence to possess these drugs without a doctor's prescription. MR. JAGGER's doctor says that he knew and had authorised their use, but he did not give a prescription for them as indeed they had already been purchased. His evidence was not challenged. This was therefore an offence of a technical character, which, before this case drew the point to public attention, any honest man might have been liable to commit.

JUDGE BLOCK directed the jury that the approval of a doctor was not a defence in law to the charge of possessing drugs without a prescription and the jury convicted. MR. JAG

## ON THIS DAY

July 1, 1967

This leader by the then Editor William Rees-Mogg caused considerable comment: there were days when the majority of letters were devoted to it. The Court of Appeal quashed Jagger's sentence.

GER was not charged with complicity in any other drug offence that occurred in the same house.

We have, therefore, a conviction against MR. JAGGER purely on the ground that he possessed four Italian pep pills, quite legally imported without a prescription. Four is not a large number. This is not the quantity which a pusher of drugs would expect in an addict. In any case, MR. JAGGER's career is obviously one that does involve great personal strain and exhaustion; his doctor says that he approved the occasional use of these drugs, and it seems likely that similar drugs would have been prescribed if there was a need for them.

One has to ask, therefore, how it is that this technical offence, divorced as it must be from other people's offences, was thought to deserve the penalty of imprisonment.

The normal penalty is probation, and the purpose of probation is to encourage the offender to develop his career and to avoid the drug risks in the future. It is surprising, therefore, that JUDGE BLOCK should have decided to sentence MR. JAGGER to imprisonment and particularly surprising as MR. JAGGER is about as mild a drug case as can ever have been brought before the Courts.

It would be wrong to speculate on the JUDGE's reasons, which we do not know. It is, however, possible to consider the public reaction. There are many people who take a primitive view of the matter, what one might call a pre-legal view of the matter. They consider that MR. JAGGER has "got what was coming to him". They resent the anarchic quality of the Rolling Stones' performances, dislike their songs, dislike their influence on teenagers and broadly suspect them of decadence, a word used by Miss Monica Furlong in the *Daily Mail*.

As a sociological concern this may be reasonable enough, and at an emotional level it is very understandable, but it has nothing at all to do with the case. One has to ask a different question: has MR. JAGGER received the same treatment as he would have received if he had not been a famous figure, with all the criticism and resentment his celebrity has aroused?







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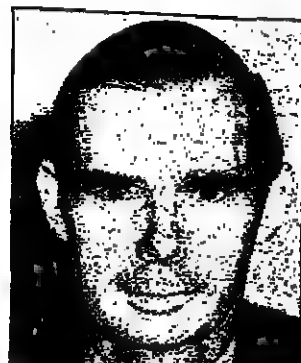
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY JULY 1 1997

## Littlewoods rethink after sale talks break down



Ross: price was key factor

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

LITTLEWOODS, the privately-owned stores to football pools business, has abandoned plans to sell its 135 high street stores after talks with Kingfisher, the owners of Woolworths and Comet, broke down over price and conditions attached to the proposed sale.

Littlewoods's revised plans envisage the sale of 35 of its high street properties. James Ross, chairman, said this would result in an unspecified number of job losses. The stores currently employ 10,000 people.

Mr Ross said: "Any deal is about

price, price and price." It is believed that Kingfisher wanted to pay no more than £500 million, while Littlewoods had been hoping to raise up to £600 million from the sale.

At the insistence of the Moores family, which owns the company, Littlewoods said the chain should be sold as a going concern in order to protect jobs. Kingfisher would have been compelled to guarantee job security and maintain the Littlewoods name. It talks with Littlewoods were on and off throughout because of the conditions.

Retailers including Tesco, Boots, Marks & Spencer and Next are now

expected to table offers for individual stores. Kingfisher is also expected to bid for some stores to add to its Woolworths and Superdrug chains.

Mr Ross would not say how much the company hopes to raise from the limited store sales now planned, but he said that any cash would be reinvested in the remaining, smaller high street outlets. They will be an average 10,000 to 15,000 sq ft in size and on no more than two floors. They will concentrate on ladieswear and on Littlewoods's own Berkertex brand. The stores may even be re-branded as Berkertex.

Littlewoods also announced yesterday that it has appointed a new chief executive, Barry Gibson, group retail director of BAA, will start the job on September 1. Before BAA, Mr Gibson worked for Burton Group and, in the Seventies, for Littlewoods. He will be replaced at BAA by Brian Collie, the retail director of UK airports. Mr Ross, who has been working full time as chairman and acting chief executive, will become part-time chairman.

The company remains committed to buying the Freemans catalogue business from Sears. It is waiting to hear from the Department of Trade and Industry on whether the deal may go ahead. The Monopolies and

Mergers Commission is due to report to the DTI by July 21, but Mr Ross said that he does not expect to hear the final decision until September. He said the company remains confident that the takeover will be allowed to go ahead.

Mr Ross said that if the Freemans deal is also blocked, Littlewoods plans to launch some direct mail catalogues. The company is also looking to expand its leisure business so it is less dependant on the struggling football pools side, which has been hit by the National Lottery.

Commentary, page 29

### BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FTSE 100	4894.8	(-35.7)
Yield	5.25%	(-14.55)
FTSE All share	2194.52	(+81.21)
Nikkei	20604.96	(+81.21)
Dow Jones	7547.01	(+40.71)
S&P Composite	882.88	(+4.42)

US RATE		
3-month	6.75%	(5.1%)
6-month	6.75%	(5.1%)
1-year	6.75%	(5.1%)
2-year	6.75%	(5.1%)
3-year	6.75%	(5.1%)
5-year	6.75%	(5.1%)
10-year	6.75%	(5.1%)
30-year	6.75%	(5.1%)

LONDON MONEY		
3-month interbank	8.75%	(8.75%)
Life long gilt	113.75%	(114.75%)

STERLING		
New York	1.6645	(1.6632)
London	1.6645	(1.6621)
DM	2.9001	(2.8959)
FF	6.7710	(6.7340)
SP	2.4558	(2.4077)
Yen	192.44	(190.38)
£ Index	102.1	(101.8)

DOLLAR		
London	1.7430	(1.7395)
DM	5.8750	(5.8540)
FF	1.4800	(1.4525)
Yen	114.50	(114.55)
£ Index	102.7	(102.6)

NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Sep)	918.48	(918.25)

GOLD		
London close	834.35	(833.85)

NATWEST		
Share price	114.35	(114.35)

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## Beckett gets tougher with utility groups

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE President of the Board of Trade has launched a thorough review of utility regulation.

Just 48 hours before Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, was due to relieve utilities of billions of pounds through the windfall tax, Margaret Beckett said she wanted greater protection for consumers. The review will address widespread public concern about high charges, poor service and excessive pay for directors of utilities.

Mrs Beckett said she was determined there should be a better balance between customers and shareholders and that regulators must be more accountable to all stakeholders for the way they conduct their business.

Mrs Beckett's review will target gas, electricity, telecoms and water. A separate investigation by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, will look at transport.

The whole framework of regulation could be changed as the Government seeks to tackle concerns that have plagued the utilities since they were privatised. A vast range of issues will be on the table for scrutiny, ranging from the pricing formula that determines bills to executive pay and dividends.

The Government has endorsed competition among utility suppliers but is keen to underpin competitive markets with fresh obligations on companies and regulators to ensure protection for low-income households. Mrs

Beckett said: "These are essential industries operating in very important areas of our economy and they have to deliver the kind of service people need at the kind of prices they can afford to pay."

The wide compass of the review, which will be conducted by government officials, will trigger fears among companies that regulation and government policy is likely to become tougher and more interventionist. Mrs Beckett denied the review would lead to more government control, saying: "They are private sec-

tor companies. But they are in a unique position because the services and goods they supply are of enormous importance. We are not talking about the Government taking control by the back door but we are talking about taking a long, cool look at whether there are changes and improvements we can make."

Mrs Beckett said the windfall tax to be announced in tomorrow's Budget should be seen as retrospective while her review would shape the way utilities operate in future.

The Government will implement changes to utility governance that will give greater emphasis to consumer interests. Regulatory bodies could be fused, especially the offices of the electricity and gas watchdogs, but Mrs Beckett doubts the wisdom of creating a super-regulator in charge of all utilities. The DTI-led review will work with other departments and take several months, leading to publication of a Green Paper on regulation.

Regulators all broadly welcomed the review. Clare Sportswode, the gas regulator, said there was a need to clarify the relationship between the Government and the regulators over responsibilities and accountability. John Redwood, Shadow President of the Board of Trade, said utilities had been threatened with "more regulatory hassle" and that they would face greater burdens.

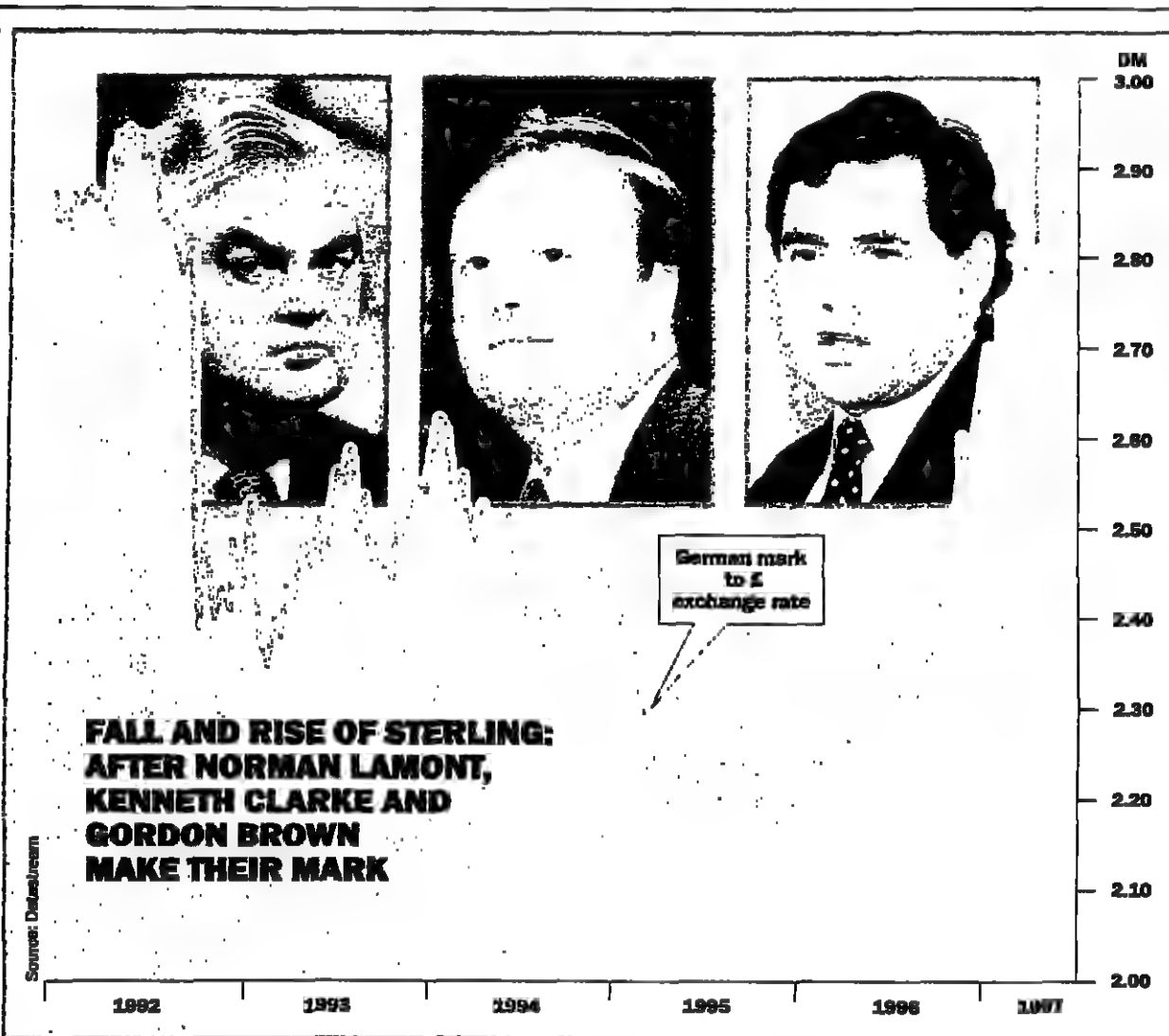
Commentary, page 29

SEVERN TRENT yesterday slammed political sensitivities to outline plans for a £134 million return to shareholders through a reorganisation of its share capital yesterday.

Other companies, notably Southern Electric, are preparing handouts to their shareholders after tomorrow's Budget. Most electricity and water groups have handed back cash, with the total exceeding £3 billion in seven years.

This has given shareholders returns far above market rates. The Centre for the Study of Regulated Industries says that since privatisation the average return on electricity shares has been 38 per cent per year against a market average of 11 per cent.

Commentary, page 29



## Consumer credit lifts sterling

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE pound stormed to a post-ERM high yesterday after the latest monetary data pointed to a continuing surge in consumer spending.

The pound closed up more than a penny against the mark at DM2.8990, having at one stage during the day cleared the psychologically important barrier of DM2.90 to reach DM2.9070. Sterling's trade-weighted index hit a six-year high, rising 0.3 to 102.1.

The pound was boosted by figures showing consumer credit growing £1.1 billion in

May, the second-largest increase on record. Total personal lending increased £3.1 billion with mortgage lending, which rose by £2 billion, growing at its strongest rate since last autumn.

The latest narrow money supply data, which was also released yesterday, pointed to the consumer spending spree continuing into June. M0 rose 0.6 percentage points, taking the annual rate to 6.3 per cent.

The less volatile notes and coins data showed an annual rise of 6.2 per cent.

Economists said the new data would add to fears that consumer demand growth is accelerating as a result of the building society windfall payouts. Adam Cole, UK economist at James Capel, added that there was no evidence that consumers were using windfalls to pay off debt, with repayments actually falling in May.

Currency analysts said that the market is betting that any tax rises in the Budget will be insufficient to stop the Bank of England making further inter-

est rate rises and the pound looks destined to hit DM3 in the near future.

Sterling also continues to profit from the renewed bout of uncertainty over European monetary union. Traders were switching to the "safe haven" currencies of the pound and the dollar yesterday after Chancellor Kohl and his CSU coalition partners publicly fell out over the terms of entry for a single currency and the latest French unemployment statistics showed the biggest jump for four years.

Commentary, page 29

## ProServ merges with Marquee

By JASON NISSE

PROSERV, the sports marketing agency that manages Greg Rusedski, the British tennis player, has been taken over in a deal that values the holding of the founder, Donald Dell, at \$15 million.

In the deal ProServ is merging with Marquee Group, a Nasdaq-listed group which owns two other firms in the field - Sports Marketing & Television International and Athletes & Artists. The com-

bined company will be the world's second-largest sports marketing organisation. It will rival IMG, the famous organisation run by Mark McCormack.

The ProServ-Marquee deal is part of the consolidation in the sports marketing business which earlier this year saw Interpublic, the huge US advertising group, buy control of APA, the sports marketer that was built up by Alan

Pascoe, the former British athlete.

ProServ was founded by Mr Dell, a Yale law graduate, in 1970 when he retired as captain of the US Davis Cup tennis team. His first two clients were his team-mates Arthur Ashe and Stan Smith, who both went on to win Wimbledon.

Since then the group has specialised in tennis and basketball. It discovered Michael

Jordan and negotiated his multimillion-dollar deal with Nike, although Mr Dell's former partner, David Falk, now represents the basketball star.

Among its current clients are Gabriella Sabatini, who recently signed a German perfume deal after retiring from professional tennis, the French Open tennis championships and the Breeders Cup, one of the world's most lucrative horse races.

ANDERSEN WORLDWIDE, the world's largest accounting and consulting organisation, has a temporary solution to its management problems.

Members of the 27-strong management board, meeting in New York, agreed to elect the chairman of the board, W. Robert Grafton, as acting chief executive of Andersen Worldwide. Mr Grafton, 56, is regional managing partner of Arthur Andersen's South East

US region. He succeeds Larry Weinbach, who steps down at the end of August.

The move is intended to provide partners with a breathing space in which to consider their next move. A high-level committee will be set up to address "key organisational issues" with a view to producing specific proposals by spring 1998. The election of chief executive will be deferred until then. Andersen

said the action "decouples the CEO electoral process from the separate and distinct process of achieving constructive organisational change." Partners meeting in Paris in April voted in favour of keeping Arthur Andersen under the same umbrella as Andersen Consulting, which broke away from the mainstream firm in 1989.

The new committee will examine the relationship be-

tween the two groupings, and look at ways of sharing costs between them. This forms part of a strategic plan, Andersen 21, agreed in Paris, and intended to be driven forward under the new chief executive.

Andersen Worldwide employs more than 100,000 people in 79 countries. Andersen Consulting generated \$4.9 billion in revenues in the year to August 31, 1996. Arthur Andersen made \$4.6 billion.

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- \* 6.99% (7.3% APR) fixed until 14.99
- \* Capped rate at 7.99% from 14.99 to 14.2002
- \* Redemption penalty: 31% of loan for first five years
- \* Available for purchases up to 80% and remortgages up to 75% of the property value
- \* No compulsory insurances
- \* Lender's arrangement fee of £295 added to the loan
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APR

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# Northern Cross backs Eurotunnel refinancing

By JASON NISSE AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

EUROTUNNEL yesterday won a massive boost in its battle to gain approval for its £9 billion debt restructuring.

Northern Cross, a Bermuda-registered fund speaking for 4 per cent of the company's shares, said it would be voting in favour of the refinancing at next week's extraordinary general meeting. Northern Cross has instructed the proxy voting group, Franklin Global Investors, to pledge its shares in favour of the deal. Franklin had been one of the strongest opponents of the refinancing and had recommended that its clients oppose it. It now looks as

though all Franklin's clients, speaking for about 10 per cent of the company's shares, will support Eurotunnel next week.

Another shareholder group expected to oppose the deal, the Association of Eurotunnel Shareholders, meets tomorrow and may decide to support the company. This will leave one investor group, Adaptive, against the refinancing.

The move by Northern Cross, which is managed in Boston, follows presentations by Patrick Ponsolle, the joint chairman of Eurotunnel, to US investors last week.

Eurotunnel has also indicated that it would make concessions in order to secure an extension to its licence to operate the Channel

Tunnel beyond 2052. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, has issued a blunt warning that he will not be rushed into offering an extension to Eurotunnel's operating concession in advance of the shareholders' meeting.

Mr Prescott has held talks with M Ponsolle and the French Government in an effort to reach an agreement that could be crucial to the restructuring plans. Mr Prescott is understood to be prepared to offer an extension of more than 30 years when the current concession ends.

However, Mr Prescott insists that he will not move on the issue unless Eurotunnel and the French Government offers "significant"

changes to encourage more long-haul rail freight traffic.

Although Mr Prescott is said to sympathise with Eurotunnel's financial problems, one Whitehall official said: "He is aware of the difficult situation that Eurotunnel faces and, of course, he doesn't want Eurotunnel to go to the wall. But July 10 is his deadline, not ours, and we won't move until we are given the assurances we are seeking."

British officials are pressing Eurotunnel to give up some of the passenger train capacity to allow greater freight transport and also calling on the French Government to provide better opportunities for long-haul freight traffic.

## BUSINESS FUNDING

### Bonn to sell 35.7% stake in Lufthansa

THE German Government is to sell its remaining stake in the flag carrier Lufthansa this year. The Government owns a 35.7 per cent stake in the airline, which at current market prices would raise between DM4 billion and DM4.5 billion. The Government has been working on plans to sell the stake as part of efforts to shrink its budget gap and help meet fiscal criteria for the European currency. Matthias Wisemann, the Transport Minister, said a legal change in shareholder rules taking effect today eliminates final obstacles for the planned sale of Lufthansa shares on the stock market.

Last week Deutsche Telekom said it had agreed with the Government to speed up privatization of the telecommunications company to raise cash. Under that agreement, a 25 per cent share will be transferred to a government-backed loan agency in two instalments in 1997 and in 1998. The Government is due to present an emergency budget for this year and its 1998 spending plan on July 11.

### Crown lottery gamble

CROWN LEISURE, the distributor of arcade games, plans to invest in a new lottery system. Crown holds 28 per cent of Inter Lotto, which hopes to set up a network of on-line lottery terminals rivaling the National Lottery. Start-up costs will include a £5 million advertising campaign run by M&C Saatchi. Crown made £370,000 (£312,000) pre-tax in the six months to March 31, with earnings of 2.13p (same) per share. An interim 0.75p (0.51p) is due on July 7.

### Tops Estates slips

TOPS ESTATES, the specialist investor in city shopping centres, slipped its portfolio in the year to March 31, leading to its first profits decrease in four years. Profits fell to £2.34 million from £2.54 million, and earnings declined to 3.63p (4.43p) a share. However, disposals helped net asset value rise by 14 per cent to 243p a share. A final dividend of 1.853p, due on October 31, takes the total to 2.558p (2.436p). The shares fell 3p to 181½p.

### Molecular mission

OXFORD MOLECULAR, the drug design software company, is to carry out work for Daiichi Pharmaceutical of Japan, for which it will receive an initial fee, ongoing research fees and milestone payments. Cambridge Combinatorial, Oxford Molecular's recently formed associate, will be involved in the project. Oxford Molecular will design potential drugs for a selected biological target, and Cambridge Combinatorial will then make the compounds.

### Profit lifts Coda shares

SHARES in Coda Group yesterday rose 13 per cent, to 144½p, as the accounting software company said that it has returned to profit, earning £60,000 before tax (£3.7 million loss) in its first half. After setting its troubled US business back on track, and signing 79 new customers in the six months to April 30, Coda saw earnings per share rise to 0.2p (13.9p loss). It said business in the US, Europe and Asia is now strong and should stay profitable in the second half. There is again no dividend.

### Second dealer fined

A SECOND penny-share dealer has been fined £250,000 by Fimbra, the regulator. Park Equity Services, of Tunbridge Wells, Kent, was also ordered to pay costs of £68,000 for rule breaches including "failure to have good grounds for believing that its recommendations were suitable for clients". Fimbra said the company had failed to obtain and record proper information on clients. Last month, City Equities, a London penny share dealer, was fined £250,000, plus £31,000 costs.

### TransTec buys Vector

TRANSTEC, the engineering group, has acquired Vector Plastics, the plastic injection moulder, for £18.1 million. The takeover is being funded by a £9 million share placing. Vector had revenues of £51.4 million in 1996 and made a trading profit of £1.7 million. TransTec said that its turnover and profits in the current year are in line with City expectations against a background of continuing growth in the automotive and aerospace markets.

## Lonrho and JCI end talks on full merger

By PAUL DURMAN

LONRHO and JCI, the South African mining company, have abandoned talks on a £2 billion merger but were yesterday unable to agree on whether they were still discussing other less ambitious deals.

While Lonrho said negotiations had ended, JCI insisted the companies were still discussing "other possible transactions which could unlock value for shareholders". JCI even suggested this was after an approach from Lonrho. Unusually, its statement named Terence Wilkinson, manag-

ing director of Lonrho South Africa, as the lead contact on the state of the talks.

Asked about the discrepancy, a JCI spokesman in London said: "I think there are cracks at the Lonrho end [that] could be worth probing." However, Lonrho denied there was any difference of opinion between Mr Wilkinson and Nick Morrell, Lonrho's group chief executive.

A full merger between Lonrho and JCI has looked increasingly unlikely since the first leak of the talks in May. Although Lonrho was, and remains, interested in combining its Duiker coal mining arm with JCI's Tavistock Collieries, it has shown little enthusiasm for a broader union. In particular, it saw little merit in surrendering its prized stake in Ashanti Goldfields of Ghana to Anglo-American Corporation as part of a side deal that would have seen Anglo sell its 27 per cent stake in Lonrho.

Many observers see Anglo, and its passionate desire to gain control of Ashanti, as the motivating force behind JCI's approach to Lonrho. Anglo only recently sold a 34.9 per cent stake in JCI as part of South Africa's black empowerment initiative. The black consortium that bought the shares struggled to finance the purchase at R54.50 a share. JCI's shares have since slumped to R35.50.

Charles Kemot, analyst at Paribas, said the collapse of the JCI talks was good news because it would allow Lonrho to concentrate on the demerger of its non-mining businesses in Africa, and the sale of Princess Hotels and other businesses. Shares in Lonrho fell 4p to 127½p, far below its own estimate of its net asset value of 163p a share.

Dutton-Forsyth, the motor dealer that made £6 million profit in the half-year to March 31, is a leading candidate for disposal, either by flotation or demerger. Lonrho also wants to sell its 70 per cent of Hondo Oil & Gas, a quoted US gas company. As Lonrho continues to shed the baggage it acquired under Tiny Rowland, the mining business is increasingly seen as an attractive takeover candidate.

Commentary, page 29



Mark Swahy, Brasway chairman, left, and Ken Webb, chief executive, said the hydraulic hose and lubricants firm had been hit in export markets by strong sterling. Brasway made £2.62 million (£2.55 million) pre-tax in the year to May 3. Earnings grew to 2.29p (2.25p), and the total dividend rises to 0.9p (0.83p) via a final 0.59p.

### Regulator extends gas competition

MORE HOUSEHOLDS will soon be able to shop around for gas after the industry regulator cleared the way for the next round of competition to 2.6 million homes in Scotland and northeast England (Christine Buckley writes). Rivals to Centrica, the supply part of the former British Gas, will be able to supply domestic gas in those regions from November, the programme rolling out to the rest of Britain by next April. Two million homes in England can already buy gas from a range of suppliers.

Clare Sportswood, the regulator, said: "People in the South West and South East, with an average gas bill of £325 a year have been able to reduce their bills by around 20 per cent by switching supplier. This sort of saving will soon be available to everyone on mains gas."

### Bank of Scotland in £89m EFT bid

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

BANK OF SCOTLAND has made an £89.6 million bid for EFT Group, the asset finance and leasing group.

The three founders of EFT each own between 1 and 2 per cent of the company. Hanish Grossart, the chairman, Ted Black, the managing director, and John Wight, the executive director, each stand to make about £1 million from the deal. The recommended cash offer of 175p a share is by British Linen Bank, a subsidiary of Bank of Scotland. The bid is part of Bank of Scotland's strategy to diversify and build up profitable niche businesses.

The offer was announced after the stock market had closed yesterday. EFT shares were unchanged, at 134½p.

British Linen Bank intends to integrate EFT with its subsidiary, British Linen Leasing. EFT's directors hold a total of 10 per cent of the company, with Scottish Amicable holding a further 10 per cent and HSBC nearly 7 per cent.

EFT specialises in consumer lending and contract hire.

Mr Grossart plans to leave to pursue other interests, but other directors would stay on.

The offer from the Bank of Scotland represents a 30 per cent premium over the mid-market price of EFT Group shares at the close of business on June 27.

EFT shareholders are also being offered the alternative of five new ordinary stock units in Bank of Scotland for every 11 EFT shares.

### Investment club beats the Budget

A CONTROVERSIAL tax shelter linked to a polo club that boasts the Prince of Wales as its patron, has been launched two days before the Budget, which could outlaw such schemes (Gavin Lumsden writes).

The backers of the Second Insignia Cashbacked Series, an enterprise investment scheme, aim to raise £5 million to invest in companies that will provide corporate entertainment at Beaufort Polo Club near Tetbury in Gloucestershire.

Enterprise investment schemes have come under fire for providing a mechanism to escape paying tax. Introduced three years ago, the schemes were supposed to encourage investment in start-up companies by offering generous tax breaks, such as exemption from 20 per cent income tax.

## 'Mr Wigan' sells JJB shares

By JASON NISSE

DAVID WHELAN, known in the North West of England as "Mr Wigan", yesterday raised £16.9 million from selling shares in JJB Sports, the retailer he founded.

The money is to be used to build a new stadium for Wigan Athletic, the second division football club that he

took control of last year. The 25,000-seat stadium will house both Wigan Athletic and Orrell, the rugby union club. Wigan, the rugby league club, recently sold its stadium at Central Park and is homeless. However, Mr Whelan said that unless Wigan changes its board he will not

allow the club to play at the new stadium. The development will cost around £20 million, with the balance coming from the £2 million sale of the old ground and about £1.5 million from the football trust.

Mr Whelan, a former professional footballer who broke his leg playing in the FA Cup final for Blackburn Rovers, sold 3.5 million shares, receiving about 482p each after commission.

He and his family will retain 55.1 per cent of JJB's shares. He has undertaken not to sell any more in the next 12 months.

Last month Mr Whelan transferred shares into a trust for the benefit of his grandchildren, a move he said was taken to avoid extra inheritance tax, which he expects to be levied in tomorrow's Budget.

### TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Days	Sells
Australia \$	2.32	2.14
Austria Sch	21.27	19.72
Belgium Fr	62.71	58.07
Canada C\$	2.48	2.29
Cyprus Cyp£	0.085	0.082
Denmark Kr	11.55	10.71
Finland Mk	9.14	8.64
France Fr	10.1	9.46
Germany M	2.36	2.21
Greece Dr	481	444
Hong Kong \$	13.92	12.48
Ireland P£	127	107
Israel Sh	1.15	1.06
Italy Lit	6.29	5.64
Japan Yen	287	275
Malaysia M	204.30	187.80
Netherlands Gld	0.673	0.617
New Zealand \$	3.435	3.159
Portugal Esc	2.80	2.38
Spain Ptas	16.72	11.81
Sweden Kr	208.50	192.50
Switzerland Fr	8.22	7.30
Taiwan N\$	25.00	23.50
Thailand Ba	2.56	2.25
US\$ \$	253.01	247.59
US\$ \$	1.781	1.527

### GERMAN CITY ESTATES N.V.

On 21 May 1997 and 12 June 1997, the general meeting of shareholders of the public limited liability company German City Estates N.V., with statutory seat in, and officially at 11071 Delft, Amsterdam, Netherlands, has resolved to change the name of the company to EUROPEAN CITY ESTATES N.V.

The deed of amendment of the articles of association of the Company with respect to the change of the name was executed on 20 June 1997. The AER Exchange N.V. is requested to amend the listing on the AER at per 4 July 1997.

In connection with the amendment of the CF-Confidential and the E-Confidential of the Company must be referred to NVG Bank, PO Box 1860, 1000 BV Amsterdam on 4 July 1997 for the purpose of providing the certificates with a stamp from which the change of the name of the Company appears. Amsterdam, 1 July 1997

## LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

### LEGAL NOTICES

No. 2889 1997

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT a Petition was on the 9th day of June 1997 presented to the High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the share capital of the above-named company.

The Petitioner is the Liquidator of the above-named company.

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# New generals fight old battles



COMMENTARY  
by our City Editor

Gordon Brown's utility tax ought to draw a line under Labour's long and politically profitable battle against privatisation with the payment of war reparations. Sadly, the war seems destined to continue in a lower key.

No one can really blame Margaret Beckett for meeting Labour's pre-election promise to review regulation. Something must have been learnt in the 13 years since Ofel told BT to make phone boxes work.

A single regulator pitted against a single company breeds high-profile personal conflict, the results of which breed dissatisfaction among consumers. Gas and electricity should be brought together and Ofel merged into a wider communications regulator. Panels representing consumers, employees and investors could cool passions. Appeals should either become genuine or be abolished in favour of greater accountability of regulators to the courts and to Parliament.

Realists know, however, that the review cannot satisfy the expectations Labour's pre-election promise was meant to placate. Where holding companies sit above regulated utilities, any selective attempt to control boardroom pay is doomed. John Prescott will not let Mrs Beckett review his trans-

port regulators, so her hope of bringing consistency between industries looks vain.

To hide such truths, the review is likely to keep utilities in the dock. Reforms will prolong uncertainty, will almost certainly burden utility managers with even more detailed controls and will surely accelerate the descent into US-style rate of return controls that Mrs Beckett, like Tory ministers, deplures.

The review will serve little purpose if it concentrates on the politically stirred conflict between consumers and shareholders. Companies fared well in the years from privatisation to the first price review. Thereafter, regulators proved perfectly able to tilt the balance decisively towards consumers, although Cornish folk would probably have been better off if their water had remained in state hands.

Regulation is failing in three areas. In energy, there is conflict between lower prices to help consumers and higher prices to help the environment. Competition in gas and power opens new conflicts between rich consumers who benefit, and poorer

ones, who are left out. A separate review of water pricing will find that charges based on rates or council tax help the poor through cross-subsidy at the expense of economic pricing. Most of all, employees have been squeezed mercilessly between consumers and shareholders. Mrs Beckett is aware of these issues. Her review should focus on them.

## Anglo's Ashanti game plan fails

Mzi Khumalo, the chairman of JCI, was close to Nelson Mandela in the movement to get rid of apartheid. But any negotiating skills he — and the backers who paid R54.50 a share to put him in charge of the old Johannesburg Consolidated as part of the black empowerment movement — may

have acquired during the years of struggle against the Pretoria regime will have been sorely tested in dealings with Lomrho. Even post-Tiny Rowland, the old London and Northern Rhodesian company is a slippery corporate customer in a continent full of slippery customers.

The end of negotiations aimed at merging Lomrho and JCI will be no surprise to readers of these pages, as the valuation problem has long been highlighted as a possible deal breaker.

The collapse of JCI's price to yesterday's R35.50 — having stood more than 20 per cent higher when the talks with Lomrho were revealed — only made the merger less likely. But the manner of the break up had Nick Morrell and Sir John Craven in London saying the talks were all off and JCI in Johannesburg saying there still are

negotiations about future co-operation. Essentially JCI — whose strings are being pulled by the giant Anglo-American — is holding out the hope that it can sell its Tavistock coal business to Lomrho in exchange for Lomrho's 33.6 per cent stake in Ashanti, the Ghanaian gold miner. At the same time Anglo will cut its 27 per cent stake in Lomrho to the 10 per cent it is allowed to have after the European Commission became concerned about cartels in the platinum market.

Dream on Anglo. The South African group has been stalking the Ashanti stake for long enough for the Lomrho management to know the game. What historically held Anglo back was all the furniture cluttering Lomrho — such as hotels part owned by Libyans. The Ashanti stake is the jewel in Lomrho's crown, and if Anglo wants it then

it will need to find someone to bid for Lomrho and sell the stake to Anglo. To achieve this Anglo needs Sir John and Mr Morrell to finish their clean-up job at Lomrho, a bidder acceptable to the EC and deep pockets.

## Trouble in store for Gibson

Barry Gibson must be wondering what on earth he has let himself in for. When he was approached about taking the job of chief executive of Littlewoods, the company was due to sell its high street chain and concentrate on its mail order and football pools businesses.

Yesterday, however, within hours of the announcement of his appointment, the dreaded news came from his Littlewoods: talks with Kingfisher were irrevocably off. Gibson, when he starts on September 1, will be stuck with the unlovely stores that he will remember only too well from when he managed one in the seventies. If he is taking long, lingering looks over his shoulder at his former col-

leagues at BAA, then who could blame him? Efforts by Littlewoods to dress up its failure to sell the chain as a "New Strategic Plan" are hardly convincing. Sure, there are buyers for some of the stores. But this only means that Littlewoods will be left with a large number of less appealing properties, while the jobs that the Moores family was so keen to protect are in jeopardy.

From whichever direction you approach Littlewoods, it is in a mess. The stores strategy is in disarray, the purchase of Freemans could yet be blocked by the Government and the pools side has never recovered from the arrival of the National Lottery. For Gibson's sake, let's hope he has a good summer holiday and is ready for the challenge of a lifetime come September.

## Call to account

AS A former chairman of the Takeover Panel, Lord Alexander of Weedon should have known that the City's oldest self-regulator would not come to the aid of NatWest in its hour of need. Barclays is therefore not being forced to say yes or no to the idea of it bidding for NatWest, which is a shame. It would be nice to hear Martin Taylor explaining how he would persuade his new friends in the Labour Party to let the deal to go through.

## Beers sparkle at S&N as leisure division falls flat

By DOMINIC WALSH

SCOTTISH & NEWCASTLE, still Britain's biggest brewer after the blocking of Bass's acquisition of Carlsberg-Tetley, yesterday announced a 21 per cent rise in annual profits on the back of bigger margins on its main beer brands and booming food sales.

A storming second-half performance from key beers, such as John Smith's and Fosters, and by retail concepts, including HomeSpreads, and Rat & Parrot, helped to offset a 10 per cent fall in operating profits of the company's leisure division.

The main culprit in leisure is still the Center Parcs holiday village chain. Eleven of the 14 sites are on the Continent, at the mercy of the strong pound and weakness in many European economies.

S&N, of which Sir Alistair Grant is chairman, lifted group pre-tax profits before exceptional items in the year to April 27 from £308.2 million to £374.1 million — at the top end of City forecasts — on turnover 12.8 per cent better at £3.35 billion.

Part of the advance was a result of the first full-year contribution from Courage, acquired in August 1995, and its amalgamation with S&N brewing to form Scottish Courage. The division had a 45.8 per cent rise in operating profits to £177 million. For the second half of the year — when

the figures are comparable — turnover rose 5.7 per cent and profits 28.8 per cent.

Brian Stewart, S&N's chief executive, said the figures showed the benefits of sacrificing volume and, in some cases, market share in the pursuit of higher margins. Mr Stewart said he was pleased by Friday's blocking by Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, of the Bass/Carlsberg-Tetley deal, but played down the long-term implications. "I don't think it's going to make a fundamental difference to the beer market, where the emphasis will continue to be on strong brands," he said.

In S&N Retail, expansion of concepts such as Old Orleans and Finnegan's Wake helped to lift divisional profits 9 per cent to £171.6 million. The key element was a 13 per cent rise in food sales per outlet.

The benefit of focusing on food can be seen in the Chef & Brewer brand, bought from GrandMet in 1993. Mr Stewart said that it had been taken "back to basics" and relaunched as a pure pub-restaurant brand. S&N managed houses converted to the brand are, on average, tripling turnover.

A final dividend of 14.17p, due on 1 September, makes 21.38p (19.43p).

Tempus, page 30



Sir Alistair Grant, left, and Brian Stewart yesterday

## Granada to replace head of Forte hotels

By DOMINIC WALSH

PATRICK COPELAND, head of Granada's Forte hotels division, has become the latest victim of the media and leisure combine's pursuit of higher profits. It emerged yesterday that Granada has appointed headhunters to find a replacement for Mr Copeland.

Mr Copeland, who was hired by Sir Rocco Forte from Inter-Continental Hotels, is the last high-profile link to pre-Granada days. In the wake of last year's sensational £3.9 billion takeover, Forte has lost all its original divisional managing directors.

A company insider said: "Patrick was judged to have done a good job running the business, but was not deemed to be the right man to take the business forward, for example by expanding the Meridien business."

Leisure sector analysts said the rationale for the move could be found in Granada's last results. "In hotels, like-for-like turnover in London was up only 8 per cent and in the provinces just 5 per cent," said one. He added that "most companies are seeing double-digit growth".

It is thought Granada may look outside Britain for a replacement. Mr Copeland, meanwhile, was last night being seen as a possible chief executive at Millennium & Copthorne Hotels.

## Pearson sues over £100m 'black hole' at Penguin

By ERIC REGULY AND JAMES BONE

PEARSON has filed a civil racketeering lawsuit against a former employee, alleging she conspired to defraud Penguin, its book publishing subsidiary, of at least \$1.4 million to fund a lavish lifestyle.

The lawsuit, filed in New Jersey District Court, accused Christina Galatro, the former manager of credits and collections in Penguin's New Jersey office, of conspiring with an outside collection agent to divert Penguin funds for her personal use. Penguin claimed Ms Galatro, whose annual salary was \$80,000, used the illicit funds to buy jewellery, antiques and Alaskan, Caribbean and European cruises.

Ms Galatro's husband, Stanley, was also named in the lawsuit, as was Jerome Bedell, the owner of Associated Companies, the collection agency used by Penguin. Penguin has obtained a restitution agreement from Mr Bedell, under which Associated will pay Penguin at least US\$1 million.

Ms Galatro and Mr Bedell were accused of diverting cheques that should have gone to Penguin and of deducting more than Associated's agreed fees for work conducted for Penguin.

The alleged fraud was uncovered during an investigation into the unauthorised discounts extended by Ms Galatro to book retailers. The discounts were offered in return for early payments and led to a £100 million charge at Penguin earlier this year.

Ms Galatro was fired in February, shortly after the unauthorised discounts were discovered. A colleague in her department has since been suspended. He was not named in the lawsuit.

Penguin claimed unauthorised discounts, which went hidden for five years, were "used in part to hide Galatro's thefts". Ms Galatro would not comment. Her lawyer claimed the company was looking for a "scapegoat".

Penguin said it uncovered Ms Galatro's spending by tracing more than 900 transactions on her corporate credit card.

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## Hodgson may launch bid

By JASON NISSE

HOWARD HODGSON, who was ousted as chief executive of Ronson a month ago, is believed to be working on a £13 million deal to take over the company.

The move comes as the lighter and watch manufacturer announced that it lost £2.17 million last year — compared with a profit of £2.76 million in 1995 — after writing off £900,000 because of problems reconciling its sales with its debtors.

After this problem was uncovered, Mr Hodgson and Christine Pickles, Ronson's finance director and Mr Hodgson's girlfriend, resigned. Though they are technically entitled to compensation of £370,000 for Mr Hodgson and £80,000 for Ms Pickles, a Ronson spokesman said the company would resist any demands for a payoff.

Mr Hodgson is now understood to be attempting to raise money to bid for the company, although he would not confirm this yesterday.

Alan Kilkenny, a director of Ronson, said the company had found problems with its new management systems, which meant that it was finding it difficult filling orders for its products and had to fly in stock from Japan, so destroying its profit margins. Work on sorting out these problems should be completed by the end of the year.

Loss per share was 2.33p, compared with earnings of 3.42p, and there is no dividend.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

# New York and London shaken by rate fears

A LAST minute bout of pre-Budget nerves produced a volatile performance that had investors heading for the exit.

After losing an opening lead of 22 points, the equity market saw losses deepen as the day wore on. An opening fall of 75 points for the Dow Jones industrial average did little to help matters, as the FTSE-100 index closed near its low for the day with a loss of 35.7 at 4,604.6.

Worries about what the Budget may contain were heightened by the rise in M0, the narrow measure of money supply, and the latest bank lending figures.

Fears are growing about a possible rise in interest rates on both sides of the Atlantic. A strong rise in the Chicago Purchasing Managers' Index yesterday came ahead of today's meeting of the Federal Reserve Open Market Committee to discuss US rates.

Further speculative buying of NatWest bank saw the price touch 830p before coming off the boil to close 3p down at 807p. Appeals for Barclays Bank, 33p off at 511.92, to clarify whether it intended to launch a bid, fell on deaf ears.

Even Lloyds TSB touched 659p before falling 14p to 646p despite claims that NatWest Securities, the broking arm of the bank, was urging clients to switch out of Halifax, up 11p at 773p.

Abbey National was left nursing a fall of 13p at 820p after linking up with Safeway, 3p dearer at 347p, to carry out an in-store banking trial at the new Safeway store in Leicester.

BTR continued to be supported by takeover speculation, rising another 6p to 205p. The price of the troubled industrial conglomerate has come up from a low of 184.5p in the past couple of weeks amid talk of a break-up bid for the company. Institutional investors are said to have become impatient about the pace of the group's restructuring programme.

Confirmation of the bid approach by F&I sent Bricton soaring 29p to 135p. At these levels, the unit's takeover carries a price tag of £101 million. Earlier this year, F&I, 3p down at 170p, made an abortive bid of almost £200 million for Newmarket.

The breakdown in merger talks between JCI, the South



Roger Partington, of Safeway, 3p higher, and Andrew Pople, of Abbey National, down 13p, launch in-store banking

African mining group, and Lonrho left the latter 4p easier at 137p. The talks began in May and had the backing of Anglo American. Lonrho's biggest shareholder.

News of a cash call and capital restructuring left shares of Ferrum more than halved with a fall of 4p at 21p. The group plans to raise £3.1 million with the placing

and open offer of an extra 233 million new shares. The news came on the back of a return to the black for the group for the first time since 1992.

Seven Trent put on 13p at 777p after pledging to hand a further £134 million to shareholders as part of a reorganisation of its share capital, including a share consolidation. The rest of the

water companies ended the day mixed as they anxiously awaited details of the proposed windfall tax in tomorrow's Budget. Anglian finished down 2p at 651p, and South West Water 3p at 705p, while United Utilities put on 9p at 660p. Yorkshire 7p at 300p and Wessex 4p at 403p.

Profit-taking left Scottish & Newcastle, Britain's biggest brewer, 4p cheaper at 646p. This was in spite of full-year profits towards the top end of expectations and an encouraging run-down about current trading.

Worse than expected trading news left newcomer Jardine Interiors 20p down at 117p. The group joined AIM in October last year at 119p.

Charterhouse Tilley, the Liverpool broker, has been pushing shares of Ocean Group, up 3p at 527p. It has been telling clients that the quality of earnings has been improved by the recent disposal of OIL, its offshore support vessel subsidiary. The invested proceeds are expected to accelerate earnings.

JJB Sports, the sportsware retailer, marked time at 492p despite plans by David Whelan, founder and chairman, to sell 3.5 million shares. He wants to use the £17 million proceeds to invest in Wigan Athletic, which last season won promotion to Division Two of the Football League. Whelan owns 55 per cent of JJB, while he and his son-in-law control 89 per cent of Wigan. Trading in the 22 weeks to the end of June had exceeded expectations.

GILT-EDGED: Prices in the London bond market lost all of Friday's gains as investors began winding down their positions ahead of the Budget.

In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt ended 17.32 down at £113.16 as the number of contracts completed was reduced to 54,000.

Treasury 8 per cent 2015 fell 1/8 to £108.7/32, while Treasury 8 per cent 2030 was three ticks off at £102.2/32.

NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street drifted down in morning trading ahead of tomorrow's Federal Reserve Open Market Committee meeting. The Dow Jones industrial average at midday was down 40.71 points at 7,647.01.

## MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):  
Dow Jones 7,647.01 (-40.71)  
S&P Composite 862.88 (-4.42)

Tokyo:  
Nikkei Average 23,049.56 (-41.21)

Hong Kong:  
Hang Seng 7,251.00 (-23.5)

Amsterdam:  
Euro Stoxx 661.55 (-4.98)

Sydney:  
All Ordinaries 2,725.00 (-23.5)

Frankfurt:  
DAX 3,785.77 (-14.50)

Singapore:  
Straits Times 1,087.95 (-13.58)

Brussels:  
General 1,308.27 (-14.08)

Paris:  
CAC-40 2,868.16 (-32.78)

Zurich:  
SIX 1,154.80 (-13.78)

London:  
FTSE 100 4,604.6 (-35.7)

FTSE 250 4,434.3 (-14.7)

FTSE 350 4,220.0 (-15.4)

FTSE All-Share 2,184.52 (-14.5)

FTSE Non Financials 2,211.31 (-12.5)

FTSE Financials 2,234.66 (-16.6)

FTSE Govt 50 96.51 (-0.38)

Bargains 5,271.7

SEAD Volume 1,536,000 (+100,000)

German Mark 2,868.16 (-32.78)

Exchange Index 102.1 (-0.8)

Bank of England official base rate 6.00%

Cash rate 5.75%

RPI 156.9 May (2.0%) Jan 1997-100

RPI 156.3 May (2.5%) Jan 1997-100

RECENT ISSUES

AIT 150p

Aston Villa 537p

Caradon 8 96p + 18p

European Mining 25

Grosmont Higgs 35

Grosmont Higgs Wrs 4

Heart of Midlothian 110p

Highland Timber 124p

Integrated AS Mgt 125p

Longbridge Int 117p

Norwich Union 318p

Powdermill Pharms 300

Reabourne Merit 110p

Royalblue Group 207p + 1p

SBS Group 112p

SCG Group 155p

Versatile Group 3p

RIGHTS ISSUES

Benchmark Gp n/p 8p

Century Inns n/p (159) 2

Orangy n/p (2) 1

Midwater Higgs n/p (1) 5

Waterfall Higgs n/p 5p

MAJOR CHANGES

RISER:

Briton Gp 60p (+9p)

City Casuals 128p (+14p)

Real Time 250p (+10p)

Real Time 250p (+10p)

Nat Express 448p (+12p)

PizzaExpress 620p (+10p)

Helix 773p (+11p)

FALLS:

DCS Gp 225p (-40p)

Shielding 430p (-25p)

Regent Inns 285p (-10p)

Admiral 390p (-10p)

Berkeley Gp 680p (-27p)

Smith WH 350p (-13p)

Orangy n/p (2) 1

Orangy n/p (2) 1

Orangy n/p (2) 1

Orangy n/p (2) 1

Orangy n/p (2) 1

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## Pension funds hold back

ANYONE who has been investing in the FTSE 100 index over the past year has made a lot of money, but he has not been following the herd. Pension funds have been selling equities and holding up their cash positions.

The withdrawal of funds from the share market has been going on for two years and the net cash position of the pension fund industry could be somewhere between 5 and 6 per cent of total assets. Liquidity has not been as high since 1990, when base rates were more than 10 per cent, soaring briefly to 15 per cent. Even taking into account the low inflation of today, institutions have few incentives to stuff their money in deposit accounts when comparing the returns from buying shares.

Figures for the first quarter of 1997 show little change in the attitude of pension funds. After some reinvestment in the last quarter of

1996, the funds have pulled back a bit and the high liquidity levels look set to continue. So what is driving the market? Sentiment seems to be the answer; foreigners have not been notably active although they have been aggressive buyers of gilts in the first quarter.

Takeovers, special dividends and buybacks have kept the pot bubbling, but the question is what the funds will do if the Chancellor cuts their income by abolishing the dividend tax credit. Unit trusts will be hurt from the loss of a major selling point but pension funds which find few reasons to invest in equities today will be hard pushed to buy shares with a reduced dividend. Instead, the funds will search out the high dividend payers and the big losers will be companies that reinvest heavily, precisely those manufacturers and hi-tech companies that Labour claims to love.

### Greycoat

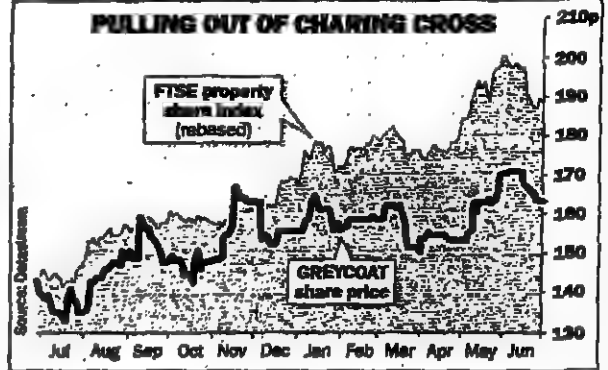
NEVER known to underplay, the Sultan of Brunei has pushed the boat out at Embankment Place. For a building let at a rent which is almost a third more than the market rate, the buyer is prepared to settle for a yield of only 7.5 per cent. With the next rent review due in three years, the Sultan could be waiting eight years before he sees an increase from the current £45 per sq ft. Even so, Greycoat stands to make a small book loss on the transaction leaving one to wonder what assumptions drove Greycoat's valuers when they last looked at the property.

Yet, book profits and losses are not the issue here. Embankment Place was a drain on Greycoat because of the high cost of finance — the company had £161 million of debt secured against a low-

growth asset on which it was paying interest at 10.5 per cent. Selling the property and shrinking the balance sheet should maximise the potential from three central London developments that are due for completion at exactly the right time.

With £25 million of potential development profit in the pipeline, there are argu-

ments against taking up the 17p offer. Net asset value could rise to 200p, say some analysts but development is a riskier business than passive property investment and Greycoat's price is unlikely to rise to a premium. If the company is offering net asset value for the shares today, some investors might wish to lock in some profit now.



### S&N

SCOTTISH & Newcastle shares have lost ground while the quality of its business has improved.

The blackspot was leisure; Center Parcs let the side down with a 12 per cent drop in profits (though the much smaller Pontins chipped in a 19 per cent rise). There have been suggestions that S&N should sell Center Parcs, but Brian Stewart, chief executive, is against such a move.

There is not much he can do about the strength of sterling but he has taken the operational problems firmly in hand. No new villages will be built until existing sites have been brought up to scratch.

Elsewhere, S&N's investment in branded pub concepts is paying off with food sales rising ahead of the market, and on the brewing side it is chasing higher margins at the cost of slightly lower volumes (although big name brands such as John Smith's, Kronenbourg and

Foster's all achieved double-digit volume growth in an impressive second half). Pursuing these policies will be made easier by Margaret Beckett's decision to block the Bass/Carlsberg-Tetley merger, which leaves S&N Britain's biggest brewer.

With earnings growth of 14 per cent expected this year, the shares are priced on a forward multiple of just over 12 times, an unwarranted 20 per cent discount to the market.

### British Airways

POOR old British Airways: the company spent millions only to see the cabin staff firing the new makeup kit on to the floor in a huff and threaten to walk out.

Yesterday, the ground crew, too, signalled their disapproval but the latter have different reasons for discontent.

British Airways is busy shedding non-core business.

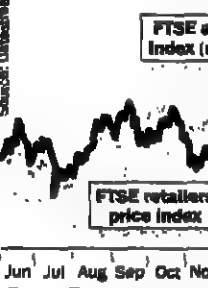
es, such as the preparation of in-flight meals but staff who interact with customers are unlikely to be candidates for outsourcing initiatives.

BA is walking on more dangerous ground by confronting its cabin crew but it has little choice. Seen as a hi-tech industry, its operations are curiously low-tech and labour-intensive. The airlines are more akin to hotels and restaurants than other service sectors where semi-skilled staff are being replaced by technology. Hence, the sensitivity to the wages bill which over the last six months has escalated in comparison with US or Continental competitors due to the strength of the pound. Nevertheless, BA will probably tough it out even if the unions strike. Cabin crew jobs may have lost the glamour they once had in the 1960s but BA still has 10 applicants for every position, man counterparts.

EDITED BY CARL MORTSHED

## CASH TELLS FALL

SILENT AHEAD OF BUDGET



WORRIES about a clamp-down on consumer spending in the Budget added to the woes of an already depressed stock market.

Next fell 25p to 678p following a survey from Fashion Trak indicating a substantial slow-down in sales growth. Brokers were not surprised, pointing to the poor weather and the fact the group would have been pressed to match the 24 per cent increase in like-for-like sales seen in the second quarter last year. But there are also suggestions that the shares have been undermined by a

poor response given to its autumn/winter preview catalogue.

Matthew Siebert, at ABN Amro Hoare Govett said: "The sector was always going to look a bit rosy ahead of the Budget. Its not surprising to see falls. It is sentiment driven and very volatile. But a 25p fall in Next does seem to be extreme."

Losses were also seen in WH Smith, 13p to 359p. Boots 11p to 703p, Austin Reed 6p to 219p, Marks & Spencer 6p to 498p, Argos 14p to 547p and Kingfisher 14p to 682p.

## COMMODITIES

LIFFE

ICE/ISAP (London 6000p)  
CRUDE OIL (\$/barrel FOB)  
Brent Physical 18.30 -0.30  
Brent 15 day (Aug) 18.35 -0.35  
Brent 15 day (Oct) 18.45 -0.35  
WTI Intermediate (Aug) 19.00 -0.20  
WTI Intermediate (Sept) 19.05 -0.20

PRODUCTS (\$/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (gross delivery)

Premium Unit 180 -1.00  
Cargill EEC 185 -1.20  
3.5 Fuel Oil 81 (10/1) 172 (10/1)  
Naphtha 171 (10/1) 172 (10/1)

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Spa 307.5 307.5  
AIB 307.5 307.5  
Dec 315-315.1 Oct 307-307.3

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on June 27

GB (£/kg)

Beef 115.50 115.50  
Lamb 115.50 115.50  
Pork 115.50 115.50  
Chicken 115.50 115.50  
Turkey 115.50 115.50  
Duck 115.50 115.50  
Goose 115.50 115.50  
Swan 115.50 115.50  
Pheasant 115.50 115.50  
Partridge 115.50 115.50  
Quail 115.50 115.50  
Guinea 115.50 115.50  
Pigeon 115.50 115.50  
Dove 115.50 115.50  
Pouter 115.50 115.50  
Cuckoo 115.50 115.50  
Magpie 115.50 115.50  
Jackdaw 115.50 115.50  
Raven 115.50 115.50  
Crow 115.50 115.50  
Magpie 115.50 115.50  
Jackdaw 115.50 115.50  
Raven 115.50 115.50  
Crow 115.50 115.50

LIFFE OPTIONS

Call Series Jul Oct Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun

Put Series Jul Oct Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun

Call Series Jul Oct Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun

Put Series Jul Oct Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun

Call Series Jul Oct Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun

Put Series Jul Oct Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun

Call Series Jul Oct Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun

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Put Series Jul Oct Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun

Call Series Jul Oct Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun

Put Series Jul Oct Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun

## LIFFE

ICE/ISAP (London 6000p)

CRUDE OIL (\$/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical 18.30 -0.30

Brent 15 day (Aug) 18.35 -0.35

Brent 15 day (Oct) 18.45 -0.35

WTI Intermediate (Aug) 19.00 -0.20

WTI Intermediate (Sept) 19.05 -0.20

PRODUCTS (\$/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (gross delivery)

Premium Unit 180 -1.00

Cargill EEC 185 -1.20

3.5 Fuel Oil 81 (10/1) 172 (10/1)

Naphtha 171 (10/1) 172 (10/1)

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Spa 307.5 307.5

AIB 307.5 307.5

Dec 315-315.1 Oct 307-307.3

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on June 27

GB (£/kg)

Beef 115.50 115.50

Lamb 115.50 115.50

Pork 115.50



# Quest for the right balance at NatWest

Further embarrassment was heaped upon NatWest and Lord Alexander of Weedon, its chairman, yesterday when the Takeover Panel rejected the bank's request for Barclays to make a formal statement about a possible bid.

This incident, which would have little significance in any other context, represents yet another setback for Lord Alexander and Derek Wanless, chief executive, coming so soon after the breakdown of merger talks with Abbey National. It has damaged their quest to convince investors such as Legal & General, Mercury Asset Management, the Prudential and Standard Life that their vision for the future of NatWest is the right one.

NatWest has invited shareholders to its imposing City headquarters over the course of the next six weeks, not to tell them of any great new initiative, but rather to listen to fund managers' concerns. One of those fund managers said yesterday: "My question is simple. How are they going to improve profitability of the bank? That's it." Another added: "What are they going to do about NatWest Markets?" While a third said he wanted to "wait and see what NatWest are saying before making any long-term decisions".

NatWest is in the spotlight primarily because NatWest Markets (NWM), its global investment banking business, was forced to announce that it had found a £90 million

blackhole in its interest rate options book. Six managers and traders have left the bank and the City's watchdogs have launched a full-scale investigation. Dealing in the highly volatile derivatives markets is a legitimate business area. What is not acceptable is that the losses should have remained undetected for more than two years.

Rory Murphy, general secretary of the NatWest Staff Association, said: "NatWest has slid down the banking scale in the last five years. It is now in the first division of banks, albeit top of it, with the Co-op, rather than in the Premier League. That is not necessarily all its own fault, but NatWest Markets has not helped its cause."

He continued: "All this talk of a takeover by Barclays or another high street bank could be misplaced. Look at the way in which banking services are delivered nowadays down the telephone line or through a computer and maybe NatWest could merge with British Telecom or Cable & Wireless. Or they could talk to Bill Gates and Microsoft, he's got the money and his company develops the software that delivers the banking services." Speculation

about NatWest's future has not been helped by the fact that it approached Abbey National with a possible merger deal in which it appears that it would have been the junior partner. The City and private NatWest shareholders took the NWM incident and the takeover talk, put them together, and came up with the view that even the bank itself believes that it is vulnerable.

Johnny de la Hay, bank analyst at Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, believes that such a view is misplaced. NWM is almost certain to be "downsized" in the present internal review. It has an eclectic mix of businesses some of which are at the extreme end of the risk spectrum. Mr de la Hay said: "The rate of return on investment in NatWest Markets are not spectacular and earnings are volatile. But, if you strip out NWM you are left with the bank and that is altogether very different."

Mr de la Hay points out that NatWest Bank, which plans to reduce its branch network to 1,750 by the end of next year from 2,000 in April last year and reduce staff levels by a

further 10,000 within five years, has about 10 per cent market share of the credit card market. Further, it can claim 18 per cent of all current accounts and a healthy 29 per cent of the small to medium-sized business banking market, and Lombard, its credit finance arm, is the largest in the UK.

Telephone and online personal computer banking services are being extended and improved and just yesterday NatWest raised its savings rates on an instant access account. The bank, which also owns Courts, bankers to the Queen, and Gartmore, one of the UK's top five fund managers, is also making strong headway and winning plaudits in the student market, one of the few areas in retail banking in which it is possible to pick up genuinely new customers.

If Lord Alexander and Mr Wanless ever feel moments of doubt then they could always turn to Andrew Buxton and Martin Taylor, their counterparts at Barclays. Three years ago Barclays was regarded in much the same "basket case" light as NatWest is now.

Britain has too many banks and rationalisation of the branch network is inevitable. That does not mean to say, however, that NatWest will not still be there in five years' time. Whether the saviour is an internal one or a contender from outside remains to be seen, but, whoever it is, they need to get to work very soon.

## Heavy-handed management has left BA under a cloud

Effects of staff unrest will be felt for years, says Jon Ashworth

Two weeks ago I arrived at Heathrow Terminal One to scenes of chaos. Long queues trailed through customs, and flights were suffering delays of 1½ hours. We boarded our British Airways flight to Copenhagen and were 30 minutes past our scheduled departure time when the captain made an announcement.

There was, he said, a problem. Our cases were on the tarmac next to the aircraft. The baggage handlers (employed by BA) were refusing to load them. He was trying to persuade them to co-operate. Hopefully, we would soon be on our way. We eventually made it into the air, but the incident left a sour taste. How many such episodes does it take before the business travellers who fuel BA's revenues defect to rival carriers? The threatened summer of disruption will do little to help.

The current dispute has little to do with pay, and everything to do with the BA management, led by Bob Ayling, the chief executive. BA employees at every level are vociferous in their contempt for the BA administration. Lord King of Warrnaby, who presided over difficult reforms, is remembered with grudging affection. Sir Colin Marshall continues to command respect. Not so Mr Ayling.

Few question BA's need to get to shape for the new millennium, but it is the manner in which change is being imposed that has caused such consternation. Witness the expensive new BA colour scheme, unveiled at a time when unions were balloting on industrial action. Ditto the overruns closure of union offices at Heathrow and Gatwick, prompting accusations that BA was behaving like "a 19th century mill owner".

Many of BA's less profitable routes, breaking the grip of the unions and removing jobs by stealth. With all this rumbling on, it is hardly surprising that morale is at a low ebb. I have nothing against Mr Ayling but there comes a point when a business pioneer (as he undoubtedly sees himself) becomes a liability in the eyes of the shareholders. BA will resolve its current impasse one way or another but will find it far more difficult to win back the loyalty of its workforce.

Mr Ayling may not have grasped the finer points of dealing with real people, as opposed to numbers on a page. His threat to sue or sack staff who strike blew this out. Where an olive branch was needed, he brandished an iron bar, and the reverberations will be felt for years to come.

Such steps could only invite confrontation.

Last year's threatened pilots' strike — called off at the last minute — resulted in improved communications between pilots and management, but this has yet to spread to other sides of the business. Flashpoints include the closure of BA's contract handling unit, which employs about 400 baggage and other workers at Terminal Two and Terminal Three. The unit closed in the face of consistent losses and declining market share.

BA staff working in the ramp and baggage areas at Heathrow face new working arrangements, a two-year pay freeze and the introduction of best operational practices. New recruits will start on lower rates. The intended sale of BA's catering arm has triggered fresh militancy.

Staff remain deeply suspicious about BA's links with Flying Colours, a fledgling charter airline. The fear is that Flying Colours will take over BA's less profitable routes, breaking the grip of the unions and removing jobs by stealth. With all this rumbling on, it is hardly surprising that morale is at a low ebb. I have nothing against Mr Ayling but there comes a point when a business pioneer (as he undoubtedly sees himself) becomes a liability in the eyes of the shareholders. BA will resolve its current impasse one way or another but will find it far more difficult to win back the loyalty of its workforce.

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## Junk bonds are back to meet the needs of buyout teams

Martin Waller says investors are being tempted into high-risk instruments

Guessing is back. Chains of estate agents are changing hands for millions. Sir Terence Conran is opening restaurants. Welcome to 1980s retro-chic. There is one other throwback from the fevered end of that decade — the junk bond.

Half a dozen recent buyouts in Europe, several of them in the UK, have used this form of finance, even though the collapse of the US junk bond market in 1991 led to the collapse of several of Wall Street's finest, notably Drexel Burnham Lambert, where Michael Milken, known as "the junk-bond king", worked. There are a couple more in this country supposed to be pending.

Junk bonds are being pushed very hard by the American investment banks that are coming to dominate the City. But some observers say that an over-reliance on a form of debt that offers lenders little security while locking them into the investment for, generally, more than a decade, risks restarting the cycle of over-expansion and collapse.

First, some definitions. Their advocates prefer the term "high-yield bonds". Under whatever name, these are financial instruments now being used in management buyouts, for example, that offer a much higher return than available to normal bank lenders.

The yields on offer are linked to a particular benchmark bond or gilt, but set about four points higher. For example, the government security chosen might be yielding 6 per cent over ten years. The junk bond would therefore offer a yield of



US junk bond market collapsed in 1991

a little more than 10 per cent. They rank, in terms of seniority, behind proper bank debt but above equity. In other words, should the company collapse, banks are paid first, bondholders next and shareholders last. Where they differ from mezzanine finance, the second-stage financing that also ranks between straight debt and equity, is that they are registered, or quoted, on Wall Street, can therefore be traded and come under the authority of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Junk bonds were used in the February buyout by Castle Transmission Services, an American consortium, of the BBC transmitters for £240 million. The junk bonds provided £100 million of the financing. Called "senior un-

secured loans" in that case, they carried an interest rate of 9.5 per cent and matured in 10 years, which was when the business's transmission contract expired.

The disadvantages to the holders of junk bonds are several. The borrower can often repay the amount raised on them after five years, should a refinancing be more favourable rates become possible. Banks providing the senior debt have fixed repayment schedules over periods of perhaps five to seven years. But bondholders are locked in for 12 years or more.

Tom Atwood, managing director of Intermediate Capital Group, which provides mezzanine financing, says the use of junk bonds in buyouts will always be limited



Michael Milken: junk-bond king



Welcome Break is hatching plans



Stephen Davidson was forced to rethink after a run on Telewest's shares

by the small number of deals of the right size. Any buyout worth less than \$100 million is unlikely to require sufficient bonds to create a sufficiently liquid market.

"There have been approaching 300 transactions capable of sustaining mezzanine around Europe," he says. "There have been only 15 to 20 capable of sustaining high-yield bonds."

But the corporate restructuring that has been a feature of the past couple of years, with companies such as BTR spinning off quite sizeable non-core businesses, is providing additional opportunities. Meanwhile, low returns on other sorts of investments such as equities have created an appetite among investors for

higher yields elsewhere. "The investment banks are certainly marketing very aggressively, and the number of transactions has increased. There will be considerably more high-yield bonds coming through this year," says Mr Atwood. As two examples, the financing of the £470 million buyout of the Welcome Break motorway chain from Granada, backed by Investcorp, has yet to be announced, but it is expected to involve a junk bond backed by the cashflow from the restaurants.

Likewise the £1 billion purchase of the French and British private hospitals owned by Compagnie Générale des Eaux, the French utilities group, will also require junk financing. The common link between the two is Bankers Trust, the American invest-

ment bank which is handling the fund-raising for both.

Not everyone is a fan. Telewest, the cable TV company whose chief executive is Stephen Davidson, was forced to abandon plans to raise \$300 million of junk bond debt when this caused a run on the share price. The company is now thinking about merging with Cable & Wireless Communications.

Gordon Bonnyman, managing director of Charterhouse Development Capital, used a high-yield bond to help finance last October's purchase from Inchcape of its testing services business for £380 million, a deal that also involved Bankers Trust.

He says the danger of junk bonds is where the availability of such easy funds pushes up the price and requires too great a proportion of the buyout to be financed by debt.

"It's a relatively user-friendly sort of finance. But it is borrowing, and if you decide that you are going to use more borrowing for a business and add to the interest load, there may be some companies that are appropriate for that, by virtue of their predictability, market position and so on. The temptation is to take that rate and slap it on the next deal coming along."

Mr Atwood does not believe that the return of the high-yield bond has yet pushed up to dangerous levels the proportion of debt being taken on in buyouts. "The level of gearing in the UK in particular hasn't reached the same level that it did in the late 1980s and 1990. The sort of people that we're dealing with are much, much more experienced, and learned a great deal from last time."

A buyout might require a third of its funding from the suppliers of equity, the venture capitalists, and two thirds from debt. Within this total should be cash from junk bonds, says Mr Bonnyman, yet this is not always recognised. "I don't distinguish junk bonds from bank debt. Debt is debt... and there comes a day of reckoning."

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## Crossed tracks

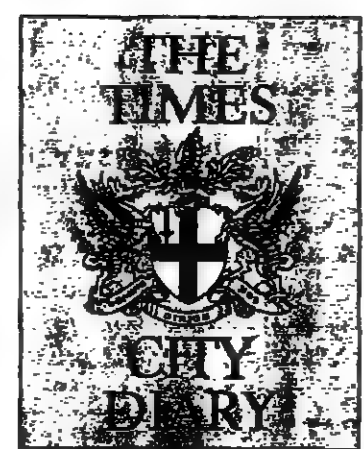
GRAND METROPOLITAN shareholders are a pretty supine bunch, so they are unlikely to make much fuss about the £600,000-odd handed to Gerald Corbett, the departed finance director who is about this far from becoming the highly paid chief executive of Railtrack.

But the headhunters hired by Railtrack were talking to Corbett soon after it became clear he would be forced out by the merger with Guinness, so he was well advanced in talks about a new job when his two-year rolling contract was paid off

in compensation for losing his old one. So it goes.

There is still the question of his relationship with Sir Bob Horton, his new chairman. The company is about to take over from the unimpeached British Gas as the business most reviled by its regulator, and fair game for attack by any government minister so minded. Sir Bob's combative style might not make him the best person to accept this with the stoicism the situation requires. Corbett's bluff geniality is better suited, if he can control his tendency to make cynical wisecracks at times of crisis. Expect Sir Bob to take more of a back seat, and possibly even step down entirely now the knighthood has come through.

● DON'T ask why, but a collection of historical answers to the "Why did the chicken cross the road?" joke reaches me. (Example: Torquemada: "Give me ten minutes with the chicken and I'll find out.") It purports to include one from a well-known management consultant, and begins: "Deregulation of the chicken's side of the road was threatening its dominant market position. The chicken was faced with significant challenges to create and develop the competencies required for the newly competitive market. Andersen Consulting, in a



partnering relationship with the client, helped the chicken by rethinking its physical distribution strategy and implementation processes."

### Grand hotel

NEWS of Ashley Levet, one of the traders at the centre of the Sumitomo copper scandal, Caterer & Hotelkeeper reveals that Levet, coyly described as a "Winchester businessman", has taken a half stake in a fledgling hotel company based in Winchester. Levet, whose leisure interests already include Richmond Rugby Club, was an investor in the company's first property, the fashionable Hotel du Vin.

He is spending £25 million converting the Boatwright Calverley Ho-

tel in Tunbridge Wells into a second Hotel du Vin. Further investment seems likely as the Alternative Hotel Company is expanded into a chain.

### Touchdown

IN THE future, ownership of a football or rugby club will be a must for a successful businessman, rather like a spell at McKinsey used to be. Arriving as a 10 per cent shareholder at London Scottish rugby club is Sandy Anderson, a director of Stagecoach and one of the men who became very rich very suddenly when the latter bought the Porterbrook leasing business. Anderson tried to buy Nottingham Forest, but was pipped to the deal by Nigel Wray, the property entrepreneur, who also happens to own the Saracens rugby club.

● THE ROYAL & SUN ALLIANCE, the catamaran skippered by Tracy Edwards and sponsored by the insurance company, arrives home tonight after an unsuccessful bid to beat the transatlantic speed record. They ran into problems with icebergs in the North Atlantic. The all-female crew was only in New York long enough to catch one musical. Perhaps The Titanic was not the best choice of show.

### Investors' voice

SIR Andrew Large, the retiring head of the Securities and Investments Board, has used his last annual re-

port to lambast the watchdog system and call for the views of private investors to be taken into account at the new super-SIB. Who might best represent their interests at the new body? How about Kenneth Jordan, leader of the Knight Williams action group of retired investors and a regular adversary for the Large regime at the SIB.

Any person fearless enough — or is it foolish enough? — to accuse Helen Liddell, the Treasury Minister, of giving "bland and misleading" answers to Parliament should prove up to the task of defending investors' interests. Is this the sort of nominee Sir Andrew was thinking of?

MARTIN WALLER



Sir Andrew Large lambasted the present regulatory system

## WHOEVER SAID GENIUS WAS ITS OWN REWARD NEEDED A GOOD LAWYER

patent n. Brit. 1 person commonly found in hospital (sic) or infirmary (sic) 2 extremely obvious 3 a right or title esp. to make, use or sell some invention.

trade mark n. 1 small expensive symbol knitted onto polo shirts etc (often foil, by Far East copies) 2 a device, word or words established to represent a company, product etc.

counterfeit n. 1 anger caused by having more than 8 items in basket (ref. supermarket) 2 made in imitation; not genuine 3 (of a claimant etc.) pretended.

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"I'd like to table a bid for John West on behalf of an anonymous bidder."

سكزامن الأصل







# Now small firms can benefit from PC banking

By Rodney Hobson

BANKING through a personal computer has arrived for even the smallest businesses. Barclays Bank this week launched a full PC banking service for small businesses using a computer. PC banking will have great appeal.

Barclays says that 1,500 organisations, including the Inland Revenue, Customs and Excise, credit card issuers, utilities and local authorities have agreed to accept payment direct from personal computers linked to bank accounts. Customers can ask Barclays to approach their suppliers and ask them to be added to the list.

PC banking customers will call up the program on their screens and give instructions before dialling the bank through their modem. Items such as a request for the electricity bill to be paid will be sent down the line to the bank and information such as the latest bank balance will be loaded on to the PC in seconds. Information is stored on the hard disk until the user deletes it.

The Royal Bank of Scotland system is aimed at companies with up to five UK bank accounts and making up to 300 transactions a month, including up to 30 payments to any UK bank or building society. The Royal Bank Account Master costs £10 a month plus individual payment charges. The more powerful Royal Bank for Windows is available for larger companies.

National Westminster Bank has been piloting a system with 1,500 personal and 500 small business customers since October.

Midland Bank has introduced its Hexagon PC banking system for medium-sized businesses but is unlikely to roll out a simplified version for the smallest companies in the next few months. Mike Conroy, manager of small business services, says: "Our market research produced quite mixed responses. Some companies like the idea of PC banking but others say it is easier to use telephone banking."

Mike Davis, small business services director at Barclays, says: "Small businesses are increasingly asking for the ability to carry out



"The bank manager occasionally wonders if I am still alive and comes out to see me," says Peter Myers, who appreciates the PC system

## From olde worlde to high tech

Rodney Hobson meets an antiques dealer who runs his business on strict principles

COUNTRY LIFE Antiques at Bushey, Hertfordshire, made an interesting case study for the Barclays PC banking trial, bringing an "olde worlde" business into the realms of high technology. Peter Myers, the owner who set it up 15 years ago, says: "Whatever line you are in, you still have to have some control over your business."

Mr Myers was the director of a large employment agency in London. He says: "They were closing branches and making people redundant. I felt they were operating wrongly. If they had a branch with three people and business was slack, they cut the staff to two. That only guarantees the demise of the branch. You just produce a two-man business instead of a three-man business."

Staff turnover was very high and service, already poor, suffered further. I was getting really obsessed. Meetings were claustrophobic. I realised I was doing a job I did not really want." Mr Myers felt

he spent too much time making staff redundant. It was something of a relief when the axe finally fell on him, although, with two small children at the time, he spent four worrying months at home in the depths of the 1982 recession.

Mr Myers was not an expert in antiques, apart from antique pine, when he started up the business. He bought some antique pine furniture from Lincolnshire that had been used below stairs in Victorian times.

He says: "That kind of furniture was on sale only in trendy parts of London such as Camden. I felt I could take advantage of an untapped need. A shop selling antiques and china became available in Bushey. Although it was a big change from what I had been doing, all businesses are based on pretty much the same business

able came into stock. Mr Myers banked with Barclays from the start as he knew the manager of the bank's Marble Arch business centre from his days at the employment agency. His advice to small businesses that need to borrow money is to bank at a large branch that is used to handling large loans.

One reason why PC banking is useful to him is because he never visits the branch. He says: "Occasionally the manager wonders if I am still alive and comes out to see me. With a small business the main problem is cashflow. In my business I have got to pay up front on delivery and it can be several weeks before a customer pays for it."

"Although we keep a tight control on finances the only time we really knew where we stood was when we got the monthly bank statement. Now each evening I can check how much money we have and who has and hasn't paid. I haven't been to a meeting for 15 years and I don't have to justify myself to anyone."

## Last chance to beat the Budget

ONLY hours remain for small business owners to take evasive action before Gordon Brown's first Budget tomorrow (Rodney Hobson writes).

While small business organisations have been appealing to the Chancellor to leave owner-managers unscathed, some measures are likely to be painful. Neville Russell, the chartered accountancy firm, has produced a hitlist:

■ **Bonuses to staff and directors.** While one of Labour's key manifestos pledges to hold income tax rates steady, there was no similar guarantee for national insurance contributions. Bringing planned bonuses forward could avoid having to make additional National Insurance payments.

■ **High profits.** If the company is doing particularly well it may be worth ending the accounting period just before or after the Budget in case the tax rate for companies is increased.

■ **Pensions.** Business owners should consider topping up their contributions to personal pensions in case tax relief on future contributions is limited to the lower rate of 10%.

■ **Advance corporation tax.** Protect the current level of credit on dividends by bringing forward any payouts you intend to make.

■ **Capital gains tax.** Labour is considering the introduction of a two-tier capital gains tax system where assets sold after a long period of time are treated more leniently. It may be worth delaying the sale of any long-held assets until after the Budget.

■ **Capital expenditure.** It may be worth delaying major items in case Mr Brown introduces generous allowances for businesses that invest in extra plant, machinery or industrial buildings.



"I'll be ruined — it's the colour I turn every time a rival gets a contract"

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### NEW ULTRA MODERN BUSINESS PREMISES

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Source: FT Information  
\* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return).  
† Ex dividend. ‡ Middle price. .... No significant data.



## Shares close near day's lows

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1997	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>							
000	100	98	000	100	-2	-2	100
001	101	99	001	101	-2	-2	101
002	102	100	002	102	-2	-2	102
003	103	101	003	103	-2	-2	103
004	104	102	004	104	-2	-2	104
005	105	103	005	105	-2	-2	105
006	106	104	006	106	-2	-2	106
007	107	105	007	107	-2	-2	107
008	108	106	008	108	-2	-2	108
009	109	107	009	109	-2	-2	109
010	110	108	010	110	-2	-2	110

1997	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
<b>BANKS</b>							
100	100	98	100	100	-2	-2	100
101	101	99	101	101	-2	-2	101
102	102	100	102	102	-2	-2	102
103	103	101	103	103	-2	-2	103
104	104	102	104	104	-2	-2	104
105	105	103	105	105	-2	-2	105
106	106	104	106	106	-2	-2	106
107	107	105	107	107	-2	-2	107
108	108	106	108	108	-2	-2	108
109	109	107	109	109	-2	-2	109
110	110	108	110	110	-2	-2	110

1997	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
<b>BREWERIES, PUBS &amp; REST.</b>							
200	200	198	200	200	-2	-2	200
201	201	199	201	201	-2	-2	201
202	202	200	202	202	-2	-2	202
203	203	201	203	203	-2	-2	203
204	204	202	204	204	-2	-2	204
205	205	203	205	205	-2	-2	205
206	206	204	206	206	-2	-2	206
207	207	205	207	207	-2	-2	207
208	208	206	208	208	-2	-2	208
209	209	207	209	209	-2	-2	209
210	210	208	210	210	-2	-2	210

1997	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
<b>BUILDING &amp; CONSTRUCT.</b>							
300	300	298	300	300	-2	-2	300
301	301	299	301	301	-2	-2	301
302	302	300	302	302	-2	-2	302
303	303	301	303	303	-2	-2	303
304	304	302	304	304	-2	-2	304
305	305	303	305	305	-2	-2	305
306	306	304	306	306	-2	-2	306
307	307	305	307	307	-2	-2	307
308	308	306	308	308	-2	-2	308
309	309	307	309	309	-2	-2	309
310	310	308	310	310	-2	-2	310

1997	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
<b>ELECTRICITY</b>							
400	400	398	400	400	-2	-2	400
401	401	399	401	401	-2	-2	401
402	402	400	402	402	-2	-2	402
403	403	401	403	403	-2	-2	403
404	404	402	404	404	-2	-2	404
405	405	403	405	405	-2	-2	405
406	406	404	406	406	-2	-2	406
407	407	405	407	407	-2	-2	407
408	408	406	408	408	-2	-2	408
409	409	407	409	409	-2	-2	409
410	410	408	410	410	-2	-2	410

1997	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; ELECT.</b>							
500	500	498	500	500	-2	-2	500
501	501	499	501	501	-2	-2	501
502	502	500	502	502	-2	-2	502
503	503	501	503	503	-2	-2	503
504	504	502	504	504	-2	-2	504
505	505	503	505	505	-2	-2	505
506	506	504	506	506	-2	-2	506
507	507	505	507	507	-2	-2	507
508	508	506	508	508	-2	-2	508
509	509	507	509	509	-2	-2	509
510	510	508	510	510	-2	-2	510

1997	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
<b>ENGINEERING</b>							
600	600	598	600	600	-2	-2	600
601	601	599	601	601	-2	-2	601
602	602	600	602	602	-2	-2	602
603	603	601	603	603	-2	-2	603
604	604	602	604	604	-2	-2	604
605	605	603	605	605	-2	-2	605
606	606	604	606	606	-2	-2	606
607	607	605	607	607	-2	-2	607
608	608	606	608	608	-2	-2	608
609	609	607	609	609	-2	-2	609
610	610	608	610	610	-2	-2	610

1997	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
<b>CHEMICALS</b>							
700	700	698	700	700	-2	-2	700
701	701	699	701	701	-2	-2	701
702	702	700	702	702	-2	-2	702
703	703	701	703	703	-2	-2	703
704	704	702	704	704	-2	-2	704
705	705	703	705	705	-2	-2	705
706	706	704	706	706	-2	-2	706
707	707	705	707	707	-2	-2	707
708	708	706	708	708	-2	-2	708
709	709	707	709	709	-2	-2	709
710	710	708	710	710	-2	-2	710

1997	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
<b>DISTRIBUTORS</b>							
800	800	798	800	800	-2	-2	800
801	801	799	801	801	-2	-2	801
802	802	800	802	802	-2	-2	802
803	803	801	803	803	-2	-2	803
804	804	802	804	804	-2	-2	804
805	805	803	805	805	-2	-2	805
806	806	804	806	806	-2	-2	806
807	807	805	807	807	-2	-2	807
808	808	806	808	808	-2	-2	808
809	809	807	809	809	-2	-2	809
810	810	808	810	810	-2	-2	810

1997	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
<b>ENGINEERING, VEHICLES</b>							
100	100	98	100	100	-2	-2	100
101	101	99	101	101	-2	-2	101
102	102	100	102	102	-2	-2	102
103	103	101	103	103	-2	-2	103
104	104	102	104	104	-2	-2	104
105	105	103	105	105	-2	-2	105
106	106	104	106	106	-2	-2	106
107	107	105	107	107	-2	-2	107
108	108	106	108	108	-2	-2	108
109	109	107	109	109	-2	-2	109
110	110	108	110	110	-2	-2	110

1997	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
<b>FOOD MANUFACTURERS</b>							
200	200	198	200	200	-2	-2	200
201	201	199	201	201	-2	-2	201
202	202	200	202	202	-2	-2	202
203	203	201	203	203	-2	-2	203
204	204	202	204	204	-2	-2	204
205	205	203	205	205	-2	-2	205
206	206	204	206	206	-2	-2	206
207	207	205	207	207	-2	-2	207
208	208	206	208	208	-2	-2	208
209	209	207	209	209	-2	-2	209
210	210	208	210	210	-2	-2	210

1997	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
<b>HOUSEHOLD GOODS</b>							
300	300	298	300	300	-2	-2	300
301	301	299	301	301	-2	-2	301
302	302	300	302	302	-2	-2	302
303	303	301	303	303	-2	-2	303
304	304	302	304	304	-2	-2	304
305	305	303	305	305	-2	-2	305
306	306	304	306	306	-2	-2	306
307	307	305	307	307	-2	-2	307
308	308	306	308	308	-2	-2	308
309	309	307	309	309	-2	-2	309
310	310	308	310	310	-2	-2	310

1997	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
<b>INSURANCE</b>							
400	400	398	400	400	-2	-2	400
401	401	399	401	401	-2	-2	401
402	402	400	402	402	-2	-2	402
403	403	401	403	403	-2	-2	403
404	404	402	404	404	-2	-2	404
405	405	403	405	405	-2	-2	405
406	406	404	406	406	-2	-2	406
407	407	405	407	407	-2	-2	407
408	408	406	408	408	-2	-2	408
409	409	407	409	409	-2	-2	409
410	410	408	410	410	-2	-2	410

1997	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
<b>INVESTMENT TRUSTS</b>							
500	500	498	500	500	-2	-2	500
501	501	499	501	501	-2	-2	501
502	502	500	502	502	-2	-2	502
503	503	501	503	503	-2	-2	503
504	504	502	504	504	-2	-2	504
505	505	503	505	505	-2	-2	505
506	506	504	506	506	-2	-2	506
507	507	505	507	507	-2	-2	507
508	508	506	508	508	-2	-2	508
509	509	507	509	509	-2	-2	509
510	510	508	510	510	-2	-2	510
511	511	509	511	511	-2	-2	511
512	512	510	512	512	-2	-2	512
513	513	511	513	513	-2	-2	513
514	514	512	514	514	-2	-2	514
515	515	513	515	515	-2	-2	515
516	516	514	516	516	-2	-2	516
517	517	515	517	517	-2	-2	517
518	518	516	518	518	-2	-2	518
519	519	517	519	519	-2	-2	519
520	520	518	520	520	-2	-2	520
521	521	519	521	521	-2	-2	521
522	522	520	522	522	-2	-2	522
523	523	521	523	523	-2	-2	523
524	524	522	524	524	-2	-2	524
525	525	523	525	525	-2	-2	525
526	526	524	526	526	-2	-2	526
527	527	525	527	527	-2	-2	527
528	528	526	528	528	-2	-2	528
529	529	527	529	529	-2	-2	529
530	530	528	530	530	-2	-2	530
531	531	529	531	531	-2	-2	531
532	532	530	532	532	-2	-2	532
533	533	531	533	533	-2	-2	533
534	534	532	534	534	-2	-2	534
535	535	533	535	535	-2	-2	535
536	536	534	536	536	-2	-2	536
537	537	535	537	537	-2	-2	537
538	538	536	538	538	-2	-2	538
539	539	537	539	539	-2	-2	539
540	540	538	540	540	-2	-2	540
541	541	539	541	541	-2	-2	541
542	542	540	542	542	-2	-2	542
543	543	541	543	543	-2	-2	543
544	544	542	544	544	-2	-2	544
545	545	543	545	545	-2	-2	545
546	546	544	546	546	-2	-2	546
547	547	545	547	547	-2	-2	547
548	548	546	548	548	-2	-2	548
549	549	547	549	549	-2	-2	549
550	550	548	550	550	-2	-2	550
551	551	549	551	551	-2	-2	551
552	552	550	552	552	-2	-2	552
553	553	551	553	553	-2	-2	553
554	554	552	554	554	-2	-2	554
555	555	553	555	555	-2	-2	555
556	556	554	556	556	-2	-2	556
557	557	555	557	557	-2	-2	557
558	558	556	558	558	-2	-2	558
559	559	557	559	559	-2	-2	559
560	560	558	560	560	-2	-2	560
561	561	559	561	561	-2	-2	561
562	562	560	562	562	-2	-2	562
563	563	561	563	563	-2	-2	563
564	564	562	564	564	-2	-2	564
565	565	563	565	565	-2	-2	565
566	566	564	566	566	-2	-2	566
567	567	565	567	567	-2	-2	567
568	568	566	568	568	-2	-2	568
569	569	567	569	569	-2	-2	569
570	570	568	570	570	-2	-2	570
571	571	569	571	571	-2	-2	571
572	572	570	572	572	-2	-2	572
573	573	571	573	573	-2	-2	573
574	574	572	574	574	-2	-2	574
575	575	573	575	575	-2	-2	575
576	576	574	576	576	-2	-2	576
577	577	575	577	577	-2	-2	577
578	578	576	578	578	-2	-2	578
579	579	577	579	579	-2	-2	579
580	580	578	580	580	-2	-2	580
581	581	579	581	581	-2	-2	581
582	582	580	582	582	-2	-2	582
583	583	581	583	583	-2	-2	583
584	584	582	584	584	-2	-2	584
585	585	583	585	585	-2	-2	585
586	586	584	586	586	-2	-2	586
587	587	585	587	587	-2	-2	587
588	588	586	588	588	-2	-2	588
589	589	587	589	589	-2	-2	589
590	590	588	590	590	-2	-2	590
591	591	589	591	591	-2	-2	591
592	592	590	592	592	-2	-2	592
593	593	591	593	593	-2	-2	593
594	594	592	594	594	-2	-2	594
595	595	593	595	595	-2	-2	595
596	596	594	596	596	-2	-2	596
597	597	595	597	597	-2	-2	597
598	598	596	598	598	-2	-2	598
599	599	597	599	599	-2	-2	599
600	600	598	600	600	-2	-2	600





## BBA GROUP PLC

### Assistant Corporate Solicitor

1-2 years' ppe

City

BBA Group PLC is a leading international group of engineering and transportation businesses. It is listed on the London Stock Exchange and has a market capitalisation nearing £1.5 billion. In 1996, turnover was in excess of £1 billion and profits before tax were over £142 million. The Group's global growth continues organically and through acquisition and joint venture.

Due to this expansion we seek to recruit an assistant corporate solicitor to join our close knit legal team of three based at our head office in the City. The environment is fast moving and has an international focus. The work will be broad, ranging from commercial contracts and employment to competition law, EC law, IP and managing litigation with external counsel. It will also involve some corporate transactional work.

You will have 1-2 years' broad ranging company/commercial experience gained with a London or major regional law firm or in-house. Exceptional newly qualified lawyers will be considered. Most important is a flexible commercial approach and a real desire to be part of a high profile listed international company. You must be a self-starter, highly motivated and able to act on your own initiative with confidence.

The remuneration package is competitive with City rates and includes excellent additional benefits.



For further information in complete confidence, please contact our retained recruitment consultants Rebecca Errington or Adrian Fox on 0171-405 6062 (0171-286 1441 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglall In-House Legal, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4EJ. Confidential fax: 0171-831 8394. The assignment is being handled on an exclusive basis by Quarry Douglall In-House Legal. All direct and third party applications will be forwarded to them for consideration.

## CHAMBERS

23 LONG LANE LONDON EC1A 9HL TEL: 0171-606 8844 (FAX: 0171-600 1793)

### The gaffe

The job was for an experienced criminal defence lawyer, and the candidate was doing quite well at his interview. Then came the terminal four part. Asked what his strengths and weaknesses were, he replied: "I prepare well for the hearing, but I tend to fall apart in court."

Not all gaffes are so obvious. Some are difficult to avoid. Another candidate was impressing her interviewers with an account of her marketing skills. She was one of her firm's most reliable work-horses, and seemed to have an innate talent for selling herself. When asked why she was leaving, however, she said she was being made redundant due to lack of work. What else could she say? But as she uttered the words she saw her sales pitch damaged beyond recovery.

Questions about your intentions should pose no problems. Your duty to be honest does not require you to trip yourself up. But some candidates seem prone to self-sabotage. A newly-qualified solicitor was reporting back enthusiastically about his interview with a niche entertainment firm, unaware that he'd probably blown it. Asked about his career goals, he'd said that he would probably move in-house in a couple of years. "Did I say the wrong thing?"

If a gaffe is really a spontaneous expression of our deepest hopes and fears, then the interview-gaffe must be the voice of our subconscious determination not to be offered the job. Unfortunately, it's beyond our control.

Michael Chambers

CHAMBERS' DIRECTORY  
Our legal directory is available from Biblos, (01403-710 971)

### INDUSTRY Sonya Rayner, Fiona Boxall, Morwenna Lewis, Aileen Shepherd

#### Legal Adviser: London

Retail operation needs solicitor min 18 months' ppe which must include landlord and tenant. Workload will also include employment and consumer law.

#### Oil Lawyer: North

Excellent opportunity for solicitor or barrister with approx 7 years' experience in the oil and gas industry to join legal department of international energy company. Work initially will concentrate on North Sea activities but is likely to have overseas involvement.

#### Conveyancers: Essex

Nationwide company is searching for individuals with approx 4 years' experience of high volume conveyancing to lead teams of junior conveyancers.

### PRIVATE PRACTICE LONDON: David Woolfson, Simon Anderson SOUTH: Helen Mills, Noel Murray NORTH: Sukh Bhatta, Paul Thomas

#### Partnership Positions

We have been assisting partners seeking a career move for over 20 years now and are regularly placing several partners each month.

#### Banking Support Lawyer: City

Part-time position with leading practice for experienced banking solicitor. Work will include updating precedents and research.

#### NO Litigation: City

Large City firm with strong contentious practice seeks bright September qualifier with a sense of humour to handle a variety of commercial litigation.

#### Corporate: City

Highly prestigious unaggressive US firm seeks 3-5 year qualified solicitor, ideally with some Yellow Book experience, for broad transactional caseload.

#### Shipping: Shanghai

Leading City shipping firm seeks 4-5 year qualified dry shipping lawyer to join their small Shanghai office. Must have real practice development skills.

#### Consumer Goods: South West

Solihull 1-4 yrs' ppe required to join international consumer goods company. Role involves contract drafting and negotiation, managing the IP portfolio and advising on marketing and advertising.

#### Co-employment: Surrey

Opportunity for solicitor c. 2-3 years' ppe to join innovative pharmaceutical company. Working closely with the company secretary, you will be advising on commercial contracts, IP and employment issues.

#### Employers' Liability: Berkshire

Professional claims handlers required by traditional insurance company to work on employers' and public liability and motor claims as part of a dedicated team.

#### Projects: Hong Kong

Leading international practice handling many of the big-ticket South East Asia energy and infrastructure projects seeks 3-5 year qualified solicitor.

#### Litigation/IP: City

City office of national firm seeks 1-4 year qualified assistant to handle general commercial litigation with an increasing emphasis on contentious IP work.

#### Commercial Property: City

Top ten City firm offers 3-5 year qualified solicitor high-profile, lead assistant role on several of the property department's best development projects.

#### Commercial Litigation: London

Niche practice seeks all round litigator c. 3 years' ppe to provide variety of litigation services to commercial and property company clients.

#### Construction: Manchester

Leading firm seeks a 1-3 year qualified construction lawyer to handle contentious and non-contentious work for major clients.

## Corporate Finance

With a blue chip client list and a far reaching domestic and international practice, the Corporate Finance Department at Lovell White Durrant is highly successful and fast growing. We have acted on some of the largest corporate finance transactions in recent years. Much of our work has an international element and requires close contact with our overseas office network. As a result of the growth in our practice, there are exciting opportunities for young lawyers - a real alternative to those on offer at other large City law firms.

The corporate practice - split into five manageable groups - is broadly based and lawyers are encouraged to develop a wide expertise. It advises clients - ranging from leading investment banks; high profile public and multi-national companies to substantial private groups - on both transactional and day to day legal issues.

We are looking to recruit lawyers at the 2-6 year qualified level who will contribute to the success of our practice and help us achieve our ambitious business objectives. We are seeking corporate and commercial lawyers with good transactional experience, but as important will be your other personal attributes. To succeed you will be ambitious, with good academic qualifications, a commercial approach and a thirst for real responsibility and challenge.

We can supply you with high quality work, variety and involvement within a group of a manageable size with a healthy team spirit. Most importantly, we can offer opportunity - with clear career prospects and scope for achievement.

For further information on Lovell White Durrant or these positions, please contact our retained consultants, Sally Horrox or Yvonne Smyth on 0171 377 0510 (0181 995 3396 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Zarak Macrae Brenner, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential 0171247 5174. Email Sally@zmb.co.uk. Web pages http://www.zmb.co.uk.

## Regulatory Adviser

City-based

A long-established and globally-respected City institution, our client plays a vital role in the smooth-running of the British financial market-place. Its regulatory advisers are required to interpret complex information and be satisfied that particular requirements have been met.

A position has arisen for a solicitor with between one and four years' ppe to act as a regulatory adviser. Suitable candidates will have some understanding of the 'Yellow Book', due-diligence work and corporate-finance transactions. In addition, they should be prepared to work in a multi-disciplinary team and have good negotiating skills.

This position offers an excellent introduction to corporate finance, exposure to a variety of transactions at any one time, the opportunity to learn with a variety of senior advisers and a multi-faceted career-path. A competitive remuneration package is on offer.

This assignment is being handled exclusively by Reuter Smith, Legal Recruitment Consultants. To discuss the opportunity in complete confidence please telephone Nicholas Wood BA (phone), quoting reference 37183. Alternatively, send your CV to him at the address below.

Reuter Smith  
5 Eversham Buildings  
Chancery Lane  
London EC4A 3DY  
Tel: 0171 405 4161  
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Internet: www.psd.co.uk



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## FENNERS

## Corporate/Commercial

2 years+

£ Market Rate

Fenners is a dynamic practice based in Fleet Street EC4 founded in 1994 by a team of talented and senior lawyers from the City's most prestigious law firms. The firm is proud to provide a high quality partner-led service which ensures a close and productive working relationship with clients. The main areas of practice are corporate/commercial, commercial property and planning.

The corporate team deals with a variety of transactions including flotations, re-organisations, acquisitions and disposals, MBOs and other commercial matters. Clients include growing and diversifying public and private companies, sponsors, brokers and financial advisers. Transactions range in value up to £100 million.

As a result of the significant expansion of the firm's client base, Fenners is appointing additional corporate lawyers to meet the growth in deal flow.

The firm would welcome applicants with:

- An enthusiastic approach which reflects the firm's culture.
- At least two years' experience in corporate finance or company/commercial work in a City or major regional practice.
- Strong communication skills, due to the high level of client contact.
- Aptitude in marketing and business development.

Prospects towards partnership are excellent. This opportunity represents a fresh challenge to work in an uncluttered environment where your personal development is a priority.

For further information in complete confidence, please telephone Nicky Russell at Michael Page Legal on 0171 269 2241 or write to her enclosing your CV at Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH or fax on 0171 831 6662.



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Applications are invited from juniors in practice at all levels to join one of the largest and most successful Chancery commercial chambers with a broad spectrum of work in company and insolvency, commercial, property and trust law, now looking to expand its base in all fields of practice.

Applications should be in writing addressed to Christopher Pymont QC and will be treated in the strictest confidence by the Tenancy Committee.

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We recognise it takes enormous energy and commitment to build a successful legal business. We understand that as an ambitious senior assistant building your own legal career you need our encouragement and support, and the freedom to pursue your own ideas. At NGJ we've a proven track record of doing just that. We're particularly proud of the fact that some of our lawyers have developed successful niche specialisms not found in other City firms.

## Biotech/Patent Lawyer - 5+ ppe

A biotech/patent lawyer is now sought with the drive to build a practice. You'll be a senior assistant or junior partner keen to oversee the growth of a practice complementary to our successful IT/IP department. The potential to take advantage of our international links is excellent.

## Construction - 5+ ppe

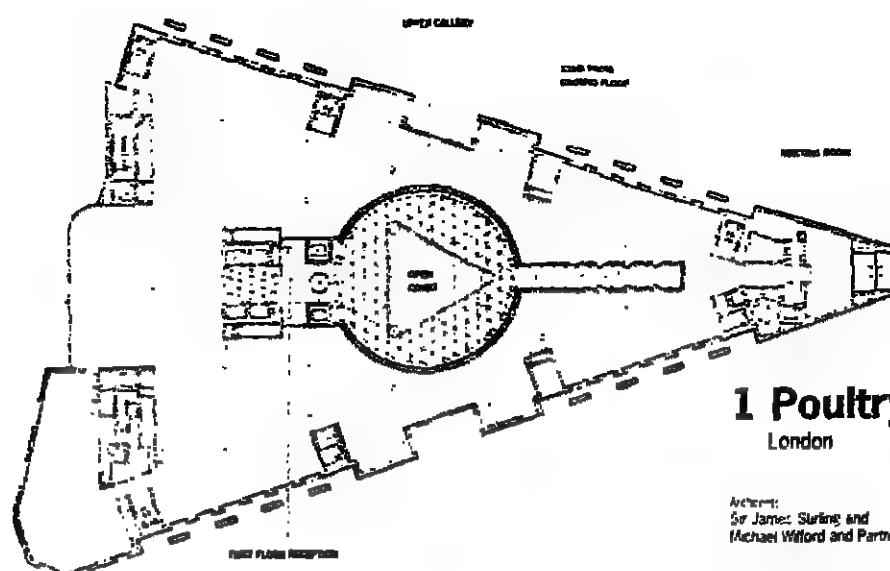
We have an established team of construction lawyers who are committed to developing our international construction practice. We are looking for good construction lawyers capable of handling both contentious and non-contentious work. Ideally you should be 5-10 years qualified with hands-on experience of major projects and some property development experience. Applicants with PFI or project finance experience will be of particular interest.

So if you have the energy and commitment we're looking for, let us help you be a success and, as importantly, a partner. We'll promote you on merit, not longevity.



For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Stephen Rodney, Michelle McGregor or Greg Abrahams on 0171-405 6062 (0171-792 0475 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglas Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4EJ. Confidential fax 0171-831 6394. All CVs will be forwarded to QD.

## Major Development

1 Poultry  
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Sir James Stirling and  
Michael Wilford and Partners LtdCOMMERCIAL  
PROPERTY LAWYERS

- 9 partners and 22 assistants
- 20% of the firm's turnover
- 84% of the department's work is property-led; the rest supports our corporate practice

Just some of the facts behind a property department dealing with landmark developments like No. 1 Poultry.

Development is the largest element of our practice - investment, retail, PFI projects, rural business and planning all feature strongly. Part of an exceptional breadth of business in a department which is committed to expansion.

We are a successful City firm. You will combine technical expertise with a wish to broaden your own development and share in our success. You will want to make a difference. If you are a commercial property lawyer, ideally with 2 to 5 years' experience, we offer you the opportunity to make a real difference.

To find out more, call our retained consultants, Joe Macrae or Andy Golding at ZMB, on 0171 377 0510 (01727 886670 evenings/weekends) or write to them at 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax: 0171 247 5174.

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Chief Executive  
Barristers Chambers

One Garden Court, London EC4

c.£60k

A new appointment to bring modern business skills to the management of these recently expanded chambers.

One Garden Court is a leading set of chambers in which all members specialise in family law. This group of almost 40 barristers seeks to improve the standard of service for their wide range of clients.

The set wishes to appoint a dynamic Chief Executive, well versed in business management techniques and sound administrative practices.

- Key tasks include:
- strategic planning and marketing for both chambers as a whole and individual barristers
  - administration and management of chambers including the clerking team
  - working effectively and in co-operation with members and support staff
  - enhancing further the reputation of Chambers.

Applicants must typically possess either an MBA, a business studies qualification, AMSPAR or similar, supported by practical experience and expertise, or some other clear demonstration of capability. You must possess strong interpersonal and leadership skills and have a great sense of humour.

This is a challenging opportunity particularly suitable for someone with vision and good business and administrative sense who is seeking to make a career change.

To apply, please write with CV, a covering letter stating current salary and a brief statement describing what qualities you would bring to such a position. Applications should be sent to our consultant, Brian Chatfield, One Garden Court, Temple, London EC4Y 9BJ (mark your envelope *Private and Confidential*).

Chambers is committed to making any appointment on merit by fair and open process taking account of equal opportunities.

DO YOU SEE THE WOOD FOR THE TREES?  
MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION  
CITY

We are a global blue chip business with revenues last year exceeding \$8 billion. The London operation, which is at the heart of the organisation's international business, is involved in some of the most innovative and high profile deals across a variety of sectors. Our business in 1997 continues to be geared towards acquiring revenue generating assets.

Our lawyers play a vital role at the centre of these deals. Their commercial acumen, ability to capture the big picture and astute management of risk has earned them an outstanding reputation within the organisation. There is now an

opportunity for two additional lawyers to join this highly motivated team.

The first requirement is for a senior lawyer with experience of managing complex deals. Together with extensive experience of structuring, negotiating and executing transactions, you will have a commercial, pro-active and business driven approach. While you may be an M&A or corporate lawyer, we are also keen to meet lawyers with expertise in capital markets, or project, acquisition or asset finance.

The second requirement is for a lawyer with 3 to 5 years experience in one of the above disciplines, ideally with exposure to a variety

of complex transactions. This is a challenging role and you will need to be a motivated lateral thinker to maximise its potential.

You will be resourceful, enthusiastic team players who want to apply your skills across a range of legal and non-legal issues. It is likely you will be from a leading law firm, a major corporate or possibly a leading financial institution.

You will be joining a fast moving environment with real potential for career development. As you would expect, the remuneration packages are pitched specifically to attract individuals of the highest calibre.

If you are interested in discussing either opportunity in the strictest confidence, please contact Geraldine Hetherington at In-House Legal, 17 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4QH. Tel: 0171 405 0151 (Daytime). Tel: 0171 642 0124 (Evening/Weekends). Fax: 0171 831 6498. E-mail: hwggroup@hwgroup.co.uk

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## PRIVATE PRACTICE

**CAPITAL MARKETS** £70-70,000  
This leading international law firm with tremendous variety and depth of work seeks a number of recruits to specialise in capital markets work. Your background could be in corporate finance, investment banking or specialist capital markets either at a law firm or a bank. You will be seeking greater variety and higher profile work with a truly global practice. Salary and benefits package will be at top City rates. (Ref:10117)

**CORPORATE** £35-55,000  
This medium sized London firm has ambitious plans for the growth of its corporate practice. If you would like to join a young partnership where financial rewards will be excellent and prospects clear for ambitious, career minded lawyers please apply. Lawyers require 1-5 years' strong transactional experience. (Ref:14618)

**CONSTRUCTION** £40-70,000  
A non-contentious lawyer is sought by this London based construction team. The firm has international reach and, as a result, projects include road, rail, power and infrastructure work across Central and Eastern Europe and Asia. You need 3-4 years' relevant commercial and construction experience with, ideally, a construction bias. Prospects for partnership are excellent in this under-partnered team. (Ref:19951)

**FINANCE** £40-50,000  
This finance led London firm has, within its banking practice, several sub groups each with their own specialisation. Lawyers up to 4 years' qualified are needed to join each of these groups specialising in asset or project finance, securitisation or real estate law. The firm is one of the largest internationally and work will be of the highest quality and complexity. An excellent opportunity to step up to a market leader. (Ref:13815)

**EMPLOYMENT** £30-50,000  
This national law firm with a strong employment law practice serving corporates across the country - particularly with a retail bias - is seeking further recruits. London based, you will be part of a team of lawyers and non-lawyer specialists. With at least 4 months' to 1 years' specialist experience you need enthusiasm and a commercial, confident approach. (Ref:10332)

For private practice vacancies please contact Yvonne Smyth or Andrew Golding (both qualified lawyers) on 0171-523 3838 (01722-866670 evenings/weekends). For in-house vacancies please contact Lisa Hicks on 0171-523 3838 (0171-642 5237 evenings/weekends) or write to us at ZMB, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-523 3839. E-mail yvonne@zmb.co.uk

## IN-HOUSE

**IN-HOUSE MULTINATIONAL** TO £60,000  
This multi-national company has a reputation for being proactive, phenomenally successful and for offering to lawyers extremely well. A new role has been created for a 1-3 year qualified lawyer presently in the corporate finance or banking department of a top 10 City firm. The work will be cross border acquisitions, finance and negotiation of commercial arrangements. This is a dynamic team which allows close contact with the business. (Ref:10146)

**INTERNATIONAL IN-HOUSE** TO £50,000  
City institution with established legal department seeks a lawyer with 2-4 years' experience of banking or corporate law. The role will be varied and will include working with business developers on setting up new corporate arrangements internationally, advising on corporate finance and finance issues, with sole finance or corporate lawyer, probably City trained, looking for a broadly based role and a high level of remuneration. (Ref:18922)

**INTERN CORP - SURREY** £TOP CITY  
The European headquarters of this diverse international company is in Surrey. They have a medium sized legal department with a team supporting the whole range of the company's businesses, providing corporate and commercial advice. The role offers a high degree of autonomy and the opportunity to handle excellent quality work in an extremely attractive work environment outside London. Ideal level 3-5 years' qualified. (Ref:19950)

**IT** TO £50,000  
Leading multinational IT company with European headquarters in Central London has an exciting opportunity for a lawyer to join their established legal department to specialise in IT work with an international emphasis. The company would prefer previous specialist experience but will consider exceptional calibre lawyers. Ideal level 3-4 years' qualified. Excellent work environment, with attention to ongoing career development. (Ref:10159)

**COMMERCIAL PROPERTY** TO £40,000  
Leading accountancy firm with a team of in-house lawyers seeks a lawyer with 1-2 years' experience to handle a mixed commercial and property caseload. Will deal with drafting and negotiating commercial contracts, leases, licences and more. You will be part of a team of lawyers with the opportunity to handle an extremely varied caseload. Unusual opportunity for a specialist to train. (Ref:10352)

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## DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Major City Law Firm

£80,000 + benefits

As a leading City based international law firm, there is no doubt our client is at the forefront of its profession. With a suitably impressive reputation not only for the quality of its work, but also the quality of its people and how they are looked after, it is now seeking a Director of Human Resources who will report to the Managing Partner.

Having overall control of the human resources function, you should be a strong team leader with a 'hands on' management style. With responsibility for a creative and analytical human resources policy/strategy, you will be the professional advisor to all levels within the partnership, in areas which will include recruitment, training, remuneration and benefits, reviews and appraisals. Investors in People and, developing the personnel database as a management information system.

Confidence and authority are essential, as are the ability and wish to communicate effectively at every level of the practice.

Certainly a graduate, ideally IPD qualified, experience of a professional partnership is preferred, although more important is the recognition of the need for change in human resource management, within the context of the firm's organisational development.

**KELLYFIELD CONSULTING**

If you have the experience and personality, please send your CV, including salary details and a daytime telephone number, to Hugh Kelly at Kellyfield Consulting, Moor House, 119 London Wall, London EC2Y 5ET (by Tuesday 15th July).

# APPLEBY, SPURLING & KEMPE

## CORPORATE LAWYERS

### BERMUDA

3-5 Years Qualified

Attractive Salary

A leading Bermuda law firm, Appleby, Spurling & Kempe currently has opportunities for corporate lawyers. These vacancies have arisen as a result of the continuing growth of the firm's corporate practice.

The successful applicants will be solicitors or barristers with 3-5 years relevant experience gained from a well known firm or chambers and obtained primarily in the areas of commercial and company law. The Department advises in relation to general corporate and company commercial matters and also on particular specialist fields including insurance, mutual funds, partnership, financing, securities, shipping and aviation. The role will also include assistance in training junior attorneys and some corporate administration.

You should have a friendly and outgoing personality and function well in a team environment. The closing date is 11th July 1997.

For further information in strictest confidence please contact Jane Foster or Samantha Knowles on the number below. This assignment is being handled exclusively by Laurence Simons International.

**LAURENCE SIMONS**  
International Legal Recruitment

Craven House, 121 Kingsway, London WC2B 6PA Tel +44 (0)171 831 3270, Fax +44 (0)171 831 4429  
E-mail: laurence@laurencsimons.denton.co.uk

# SUMMER BLUES?

**BANKING/FINANCE** To £100,000  
Arguably the most vibrant top 10 City firm of the moment is looking to expand its practice by recruiting lawyers with 1-4 years' experience in mainstream banking and finance as well as all in other areas of finance, including project and asset finance, securitisation, derivatives and capital markets. Ref: T44

**IN-HOUSE SENIOR FINANCE** To £135,000  
This is a major and very lucrative opportunity for a lawyer with 5-10 years' capital markets experience to become head of this major international bank's legal department. There will be significant management responsibilities, including world-wide co-ordination of transactions. Ref: T35649

**DRY SHIPPING** To £50,000  
There are exceptional partnership prospects for the dry shipping lawyer with 3-4 years' experience who joins the top 20 City firm. It has a world-renowned shipping practice and is currently in a major growth phase, making it a very good career move for lawyers who want to test themselves at the very top. Ref: T23945

**COMPETITION** To £50,000  
As if it wasn't exciting enough to have the chance to join one of the most talked-about start-ups of recent years, this well-known City firm will also make you its main competition specialist in London. The rewards - both pay and promotion - are obvious and substantial if you have 0-4 years' experience. Ref: T36444

**EMPLOYMENT** To £47,000  
This very well-known West End firm is one of the hippest and most forward-looking firms in the country, and is definitely a good place to be an employment lawyer keen on a very broad spread of non-contentious and especially contentious work. You will either be newly qualified or have 2-3 years' experience. Ref: T34161

**BANKING KNOW-HOW** To £Competitive  
This is the life if you want to take a step back from the front line. The London office of this leading US firm needs an experienced lawyer to be its first banking/finance know-how expert. You will be very handsomely rewarded and this job could suit someone who wants to work part-time. Ref: T41145

**LITIGATION** Hong Kong To £Excellent  
The good times in Hong Kong should keep on rolling after the handover to China, making it a sell one of the best places in the world to be a lawyer. This is your chance to join the Hong Kong office of one of the City's biggest firms if you are a lawyer with 1-5 years' experience in Mandarin or Cantonese. Ref: T25720

**QD**  
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For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Kate Sutcliffe, Adrian Fox or Emma Corwell (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0181-789 9933 or 0171-284 1441 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.

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**FINANCIAL SERVICES** To £Partnership  
The growing importance of financial services work to top 10 City firms such as this one is reflected in this important appointment of a senior lawyer - probably partner, or perhaps senior assistant or senior in-house counsel - who is a specialist in regulatory frameworks. A good move wherever you come from. Ref: T41127

**OIL AND GAS** To £Partnership  
You could really strike career oil by joining the highly-rated energy group of this top 10 City firm. As a partner or exceptional senior assistant, you will be an oil and gas expert with particular knowledge of oil and gas exploration and production, as well as gas trading and transportation. Ref: T41126

**IN-HOUSE DERIVATIVES** To £Excellent  
If you want to make your name as a derivatives lawyer, this is the place to do it. Recognised market-leaders need young, very well-qualified lawyers at all levels to work on complex derivatives matters or transaction management. Languages and emerging markets experience would be a plus. Ref: T38224

**TAX** To £60,000  
This top 10 firm is really making its mark across the corporate board and this is a very good time to join, as prospects are generally good for a firm to start. It is now looking for 1-4 years' qualified tax lawyers to work on tax structuring for a wide range of domestic and international transactions. Ref: T29625

**CONSTRUCTION** To £55,000  
With one of the country's best property practices, it is no surprise that this medium-sized City firm has a market-leading construction practice as well. Lawyers with 3-4 years' experience will get plenty of freedom to run their own cases in a broad range of matters and to get involved in business development. Ref: T39342

**CORPORATE FINANCE** To £58,000  
Great opportunities to develop your skills and career at this top 10 City firm for a lawyer with 2-4 years' experience as a good firm in M&A, corporate finance and venture capital work, as well as one with experience of stock exchange floatations, rights issues and plannings to raise finance. Ref: T36338

**PROPERTY** To £70,000  
A top medium-sized City firm offers you the exciting venture of good quality work and a close, friendly atmosphere. You can enjoy the benefits - promotion prospects included - of working here if you are a property lawyer with 2-7 years' experience on an industrial caseload for some major clients. Ref: T28370

# TRY A CAREER THAT ISN'T LEGAL

Private company seeking to expand following highly successful first five years of trading. seeks Graduates aged 20-31, or those of sound academic background to be trained to the highest standard with view of full profit participation within 2-3 years. Call

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# PARALEGAL FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW FIRM IN PARIS

English mother tongue. At least 3 years prior experience (preferably in litigation/arbitration) in U.S., U.K. or France. Fluent French (German and/or Arabic an asset). Long term commitment to living in France.

Applications to be sent to: Box No 6058

**M&G**

# Compliance

an opportunity to influence rather than interrogate

M&G's profile within the regulatory framework is pre-eminent, with emphasis less on policing than on product development; the keynotes to success are facilitation rather than frustration and a solution-based ethos rather than a problem-finding mentality.

We are looking for a compliance professional (almost definitely a lawyer) who can demonstrate a successful track record within the financial services industry. Ideal candidates will have an absolute minimum of five years' financial services experience within the retail side of the business with, crucially, substantial in-depth exposure to the Unit Trust/PEPs product areas.

The role is very much project based, requiring a willingness to take ownership, the keenness to develop relationships internally and externally as well as the flexibility to handle a discrete workload.

This is a first class opportunity within an organisation heavily committed to the positive benefits of the compliance role: career development prospects are excellent and the salary/benefits package has been designed to attract the best.

Please send full career details, including current salary, to Malcolm Lawrenson, Exchange Consulting Group, 13 St. Swinburn Lane, London EC4N 8AL. Fax: 0171 929 2805. For an informal, exploratory discussion telephone 0171 929 2383 during the working day or 01323 485580 in the evening. All CVs sent directly to the company will be forwarded to Exchange Consulting Group.

**EXCHANGE CONSULTING GROUP**  
SEARCH AND SELECTION

# KEEP IT SHORT

## COMMERCIAL

Entertainment company requires a junior solicitor/barrister to work on an unsupervised basis for 9 month contract. Excellent opportunity to gain in-house experience in a commercial environment. Must be computer literate and have recent experience of contract drafting. Ref: 41155

## BANKING

City firm with strong reputation within banking/finance, seeks 3-6 years' qualified solicitor/barrister. Candidates must be available immediately to assist on major transaction for period of 1 year. Ref: 41263

## CORPORATE

Major City firm requires top quality team of 4 company/commercial solicitors. Ideally candidates will be newly qualified or up to 4 years' experience to work within large department on corporate transaction. Ref: 41196

## NON FEE-EARNING

Solicitor/barrister, with solid non fee-earning property experience required by this leading City firm. Contract to start as soon as possible and could go permanent. Ref: 30811

## COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Small, highly commercial, London practice needs 2-8 years' qualified solicitor to cover for a 6 month maternity leave. Immediate start. Broad ranging work. Ref: 17496

**SPL**  
SPECIAL PROJECT LAWYERS

For further information please call Emma Anderson or Nicky Rutherford-Jones on 0171-405 6062 (0181-540 2381 or 0171-350 0682 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Special Project Lawyer, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171 831 6394.

## DERIVATIVES

International financial institution seeks 1+ years' qualified solicitor/barrister for 6 month contract, with possibility of becoming permanent. Working knowledge of ISDA documentation, collateral and standard form agreements essential. Ref: 40463

## PRIVATE CLIENT

Competent solicitor, with the ability to work completely unsupervised, required to work within high profile media department of top City firm. Urgent instruction. Very interesting work including trusts and personal tax. Ref: 40032

## IPHT LITIGATION

2-6 years' qualified solicitor needed in this progressive, international City practice. To undertake contentious IPHT support for the Litigation/Insolvency departments. 3 month contract. Immediate start. Ref: 40635

## RESIDENTIAL CONVEYANCER

8 month contract with young, vibrant London practice. Candidates should have at least 1-6 years' up-to-date residential conveyancing experience to assist property partner. Ref: 41082

## COMMERCIAL LITIGATOR

Global practice has requirement for 4-6 years' qualified solicitor who must be able to handle heavyweight and multi-jurisdictional litigation. To start as soon as possible; could become permanent. Ref: 40036

SPL is a QD Company

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RESOURCES  
0,000 + benefits

# LAW

● MIGHTY MEDIATORS 41  
● LEGAL AID 41



Britain will no longer fly the Union Flag in Hong Kong; now it is more than ever up to the former colony's Bar to fight for citizens' rights  
The former colony's legal system is good, says Daniel Brennan, QC, but vigilance is required

## Hong Kong's great hope

The rule of law is vital to the wellbeing of any society. Hong Kong is no exception. And the more so, now that it has become a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China. The territory has produced two unqualified achievements. Hong Kong has become one of the world's great financial centres. That success has been based on a high-quality legal system. International financial confidence has been nurtured by a local determination to preserve the rule of law. What now is the future of its legal system?

The Joint Declaration of 1984 and the Basic Law provide that it should be maintained as it is at present. Under the Basic Law, the SAR will exercise "a high degree of autonomy" and have "independent judicial power, including that of final adjudication". The communist system shall not be practised, and the previous capitalist system and way of life shall remain unchanged for 50 years. The legal framework, with its common law foundation, is to be maintained.

Will these constitutional undertakings offer practical protection to the system of justice? Above all, the judiciary must be independent and free of interference. Appointments are to be made by a judicial appointments commission. This

is an independent body and must remain so. Judicial selection has to be on merit.

So far, the prospects are good. Andrew Li, QC, a distinguished lawyer and highly respected member of Hong Kong's legal community, is the new Chief Justice. The appointment has been met with great relief. He will add stature and international credibility to the new court system. The Court of Final Appeal replaces the Privy Council as the court of final adjudication.

Uniquely, the court may invite judges from other common law jurisdictions to sit. It faces fundamental decisions. Either from the criminal law or by way of judicial review, there will surely be a claim that the temporary Legislative Assembly is unconstitutional either as to past acts, or as to its role pending the elections set for 1998. At whatever level, the judges must be free of any political pressure from the legislature or the executive.

The wave of political and legislative activity has placed great demands on the Bar of Hong Kong. Traditionally, they have taken a leading role in debate and advice on legislation, especially that affecting human rights and the legal system. The community has come to expect it of them. Their

commitment to the preservation of democratic rights and legal principles should engender admiration and humility in those of us who may well take our own enjoyment of such rights for granted. Their present role will continue.

Audrey Eu, QC, the leader of the Hong Kong Bar, is a determined advocate of an independent legal system. Margaret Ng on the Legislative Council has been tireless in the almost daily review of proposed legislative changes,

strike are all preserved. Trial by jury and all present rights and principles of the criminal law system continue. Freedom of the press is to continue.

But is the press to print what is thought politically appropriate or that which the journalist wishes to print? (Recently, a senior member of the New China News Agency, the Chinese Communist Party's agency in Hong Kong, was appointed an adviser to *The South China Morning Post*.)

The right to public demonstration may now be controlled on the grounds of "national security". That is defined as "the safeguarding of territorial integrity and the independence and the indestructibility of the Republic". So, in future,

demonstrations may be forbidden even when there is no threat to public order or safety. Is the issue of "national security" reviewable by the courts and in particular the Court of Final Appeal? If litigated before that court, will Article 158 of the Basic Law allow the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress to implement its power of interpretation of the Basic Law because "national security" is not a matter "within the limits of the autonomy of the region"?

A vital factor in future access to justice will be legal aid. The Legal Aid Department

The people have come to regard the legal system as a fundamental protection

especially the controversy surrounding the Public Order and Societies Ordinances.

Gladys Li, QC, is stalwart in her defence of individual human rights. As an executive council member of the International Commission of Jurists, her importance in protecting human rights is central.

Protecting those rights will be the touchstone of success in the new system. Articles 25 to 42 of the Basic Law in effect set out a Bill of Rights. Equality before the law, freedom of speech, association, demonstration, and trade union membership with the right to

## Another hobbyhorse for Mitchell

LAWYERS, watch out. Austin Mitchell, scourge in the 1980s of solicitors' near-monopoly of conveyancing, is back in business, looking at legal aid. Legal aid certificates are just another type of voucher, the Labour MP for Great Grimsby says, and, like the Tories' aborted "nursery voucher" scheme, should be abolished. His remarks will infuriate and terrify solicitors and barristers.

Mr Mitchell has led a campaign for years for a national salaried legal service. Buoyed by reports that the Government wants a more radical than expected overhaul of legal aid, he is urging it to take on the Bar Council and the Law Society to end the system's dependence on private lawyers. He says: "Labour must have the guts to take on the lawyers, to get our spending priorities right. The professions will pull strings to take the heat off them, but new Labour can prove it is not the lawyers' puppet."

### Anderson shock

CLIVE ANDERSON, the talk show host and barrister, is turning serious. He is to be the moderator in *Hypotheticals*, the award-winning series

## OUTS

which returns to BBC2 on July 25, 26 and 27. Mr Anderson will moderate the first in the series, on the ethics of small businesses — asking how far people will tolerate sexual harassment and racism to safeguard profits.

### Talk fest

CHINA is sending a five-strong delegation from the Supreme People's Court, led by the Vice-President, Liu Jiachen, to attend the *Law and*

Justice — where now? tenth anniversary conference from July 27 to August 1. It is attracting lawyers and judges from around the world: one of the latest to sign up is Justice Stephen Breyer from the US Supreme Court.

Details: Blair Communications, 0171-722 9731

### DIY boost

THE growing do-it-yourself band of litigants taking their cases to court had a boost last week when Lord Woolf, Master



At Glastonbury, the foundation's Michael Grimes, left

## Lawyers are so hip

LAWYERS took on a new role last week when they set up a stand at the Glastonbury Festival to raise awareness of legal rights. The idea came from Tony Thorpe of the Citizens' Foundation and Matthew McKaig, the Law Society's southwest regional secretary. A society spokesman says: "We are pleased with the results. Though the event turned into a sea of mud, we had a steady flow of people with queries ranging from how to divorce, housing problems and drugs issues."

ter of the Rolls, spoke at the launch of *Taking your Own Legal Action* (Straightforward Publishing, £9.99). The book, by Laurence Kingsley, is a user-friendly guide to help people through the minefield of civil court rules and procedures, whether as plaintiffs or defendants.

Lord Woolf said: "Litigants in person will find this book of immense help in the process of conducting their own action."

Judge Richard May, a circuit judge on the Midlands and Oxford Circuit, has been elected by the UN General Assembly to serve for four years on the International Criminal Tribunal, dealing with war crimes arising from the former Yugoslavia.

### Celebration

GEORGE CARMAN, QC, was not the only lawyer with cause to celebrate the victory of Guardian Newspapers over Jonathan Aitken. The London media law firm Olswang was also opening a few bottles.

Geraldine Proudler, the solicitor who led the legal team acting for *The Guardian*, is one of its partners. Mr Aitken is the fourth consecutive bringer of a libel action against the newspaper to suffer defeat at the hands of Miss Proudler and her team, assistant solicitors Debbie Ashenurst and Joel Barry, and a trainee, Linda Francis.

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## When sexuality should not matter

In Luxembourg next week the European Court of Justice will hear oral argument on whether discrimination by employers against homosexuals and lesbians is a breach of European Union law.

Lisa Grant, a clerical worker employed by South West Trains, was refused a concessionary travel pass for her female partner. There is no dispute that had she been married to, or living with, a man, a travel pass would have been issued. Ms Grant began legal proceedings, claiming to be the victim of sex discrimination. Her employer responded that the discrimination was lawful because it was on the ground of her sexual orientation, not on the ground of her sex. The industrial tribunal in Southampton considered that important questions of law arose and so referred the dispute to the European Court for a decision.

Sex discrimination by employers in relation to pay, other benefits and working conditions is prohibited by Article 119 of the Treaty of Rome and by Directive 76/207. In recent cases, the European Court has adopted a liberal approach to the concept of sex discrimination. It has decided that employers act unlawfully if they dismiss a woman employee because she is pregnant even if a male employee with an incapacitating condition would have been dismissed. The court has also ruled that the concept of sex discrimination applies where a transsexual employee is dismissed because he or she is undergoing sex-reassignment surgery.

The case for the applicant is simple. If Ms Grant were a man, her current female partner would have received the travel pass. Similarly, if Ms Grant's current partner were male, rather than female, there would be no problem. Therefore, sex is the cause of the detriment of which Ms Grant complains.

The case for the employer is that such an analysis ignores a crucial aspect of the practical reality. The difference in treatment is based not on sex but on sexual orientation. A male employee who is homosexual and a female employee who is lesbian are treated in the same way. Neither receives travel benefits for their same-sex partners. The employer contends that it is entitled to treat a homosexual or lesbian relationship less favourably than a heterosexual one.

The application of sex discrimination law to issues of sexual orientation has been considered by the United States Court of Appeals. In 1979, in *De Santa v Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co*, the Ninth Circuit rejected the argument that discrimination against homosexuals breached Title VII of the Civil Rights Act 1964 because "if a male

employee prefers males as sexual partners, he will be treated differently from a female who prefers male partners". The court accepted the employer's argument that it applied the same test whether dealing with men or women in that "it will not hire or promote a person who prefers sexual partners of the same sex".

That judgment illustrates that a court's conclusion on this legal issue depends on how the problem is analysed. The employer's defence to Ms Grant's claim (that the cause of the detriment is not her sex but her sexual orientation) is superficially attractive. However, this defence will probably not appeal to the European Court of Justice.

There are two main reasons for that. First, the court's judgments on pregnancy and transsexuals decline to adopt a narrow interpretation of sex discrimination which focuses on whether men and women are treated in an equally disadvantageous way in defined respects. Instead, the court looks to whether the detriment flows from a sexual characteristic. Since the court found that pregnancy and transsexualism are factors "based, essentially if not exclusively, on the sex of the person concerned", it is probable that it will conclude similarly in relation to sexual orientation.

Secondly, the court's judgment in the 1996 transsexual case of *P v S and Cornwall County Council* stated that there is a fundamental right to equal treatment of men and women. To tolerate discrimination against transsexuals would, in the court's judgment, amount to "a failure to respect the dignity and freedom to which he or she is entitled, and which the court has a duty to safeguard". Similar reasoning can easily be applied to the discrimination against Ms Grant and her partner.

Ms Grant deserves to succeed in Luxembourg, not just because her employers are impeding her fundamental right to a private life free from interference, but also because sex discrimination law is designed to rebut Sigmund Freud's assertion that "anatomy is destiny".

The train operator is penalising Ms Grant for living with a woman rather than with a man. The purpose of the law relating to sex discrimination is precisely to prevent employers from acting on their views of biological or cultural differences between the sexes. If there is one basic principle of sex equality law, it is that Ms Grant is entitled to be treated by her employer as an individual, without regard to her sex.

The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



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## Is it the end of the affair?

The love affair between lawyers and litigation is finally cooling. In the latest sign that the traditional adversarial game is on the way out, S.J. Berwin, one of the City's best-known litigation firms, today launches an innovative service for clients. The firm's alternative dispute resolution (ADR) services unit will entice its commercial clients away from court battles and instead offer them mediation as a way of settling their disputes.

The new unit can claim something of a coup. David Shapiro, one of the big mediation names in the US, is to be co-director, along with David Harrel, the firm's senior partner. Mr Shapiro says: "Whether or not the English legal profession likes it, mediation is here to stay."

Britain will come under the same pressure as America, he says, to find solutions other than litigation. Twenty-five years ago, ADR was in its infancy in America. "Faced with thousands of asbestos, breast implant and other product liability cases," he adds, "US judges insisted that the parties attempt in good faith to resolve their disputes by mediation. And corporate clients, overcoming their initial resistance, got the idea."

"They found that disputes were resolved in days, weeks or, at worst, months, but not years — and at a fraction of the cost of preparing for trial and then — usually — settling at the court door."

"As a result," he says, "most American courts now have rules that require cases to go to mediation before they can be listed for trial."

Berwin's new unit includes seven litigation specialists from each part of the firm's corporate practice. Two, including Mr Shapiro, are themselves also trained mediators, although outside mediators

As mediation starts to succeed litigation abroad, Frances Gibb sees a similar trend here



Shapiro, left, and Lord Woolf advocates of greater use of mediation

would be used for any mediation involving the firm's clients. All, including Tim Taylor, the head of litigation, will be mediation advocates and will be with the client at the mediation process to put their case.

Mr Taylor says: "Our clients are finding that litigation is an expensive and bruising experience and are asking whether there is an alternative. We can now provide them with a service that offers a different way."

Mediation has taken off elsewhere. In Canada and Australia it is an automatic first step. Here it is still in its infancy. But some key moves are forcing an end to the shut-it-out litigation culture. Last summer Lord Woolf, in his landmark civil justice report, advocated greater use of mediation. Courts should take into account, he

says, whether parties have unreasonably refused to try ADR.

There was also a practice direction from Mr Justice Waller in the commercial court on June 7, urging judges to encourage parties to try ADR. And Judge Butler is heading a mediation experiment in the Central London County Court. The success rate there has been 60 per cent, although only a small percentage of cases opt for ADR. But in the commercial court, 30 per cent of cases — and the figure is rising — are going to mediation.

Enthusiasm is growing. Mr Shapiro, who retired last year from the US law firm Dickstein, Shapiro & Morin, where he was a founding partner, is an accredited mediator with the Centre for Dispute Resolution (CEDR) and media-

tion lecturer at the London School of Economics. Now based in the UK, he came here a year ago to set up the European branch of JAMS Endispute, America's biggest mediation practice, handling 17,000 disputes a year of all sizes.

He still encounters a fear that mediation means that "litigators will go broke". But many cases, he argues, will never be suitable for mediation and even if they are, mediation will not always succeed. Where mediation does work, it can mean more, not less work. He explains: "The clients fall in love with their lawyers because their time and money has been saved, and they come back again."

There is also ignorance about mediation, the process of negotiating a settlement through a neutral intermediary. He says: "The mediator guides the negotiation process, advising, listening, helping them to reach a 'win-win' solution, or one that all parties can live with." In litigation, he says, lawyers kick off "Chicago-style", demanding £10 million and the other side counters with an offer of £100,000. They inch themselves forward in an "oriental rug auction", not wanting to show weakness.

But if some lawyers are chary, judges are keen. Mr Shapiro has been involved in teaching judges at both a special CEDR seminar for High Court judges and for other judiciary held by the Judicial Studies Board. It is crucial, he says, for the judges to take a lead in pushing ADR because if it comes from them, there is no stigma, or fear of seeming weak, attaching to the parties.

Other law firms are looking at Berwin's intentions. "We hope," Mr Taylor says, "that they will follow suit, so that a culture of mediation is created, and high-quality, successful mediations become the norm."

## Legal aid must give good value

Geoff Hoon outlines the Government's thinking on how to cut a £1.5 billion bill

Harold Wilson once remarked that "one man's wage increase is another man's price increase". He was not thinking about legal aid, but the words are apt. The legal aid paid to lawyers has meant that the price charged to taxpayers has more than doubled over the past six years to £1.5 billion. And the price per case is still rising ahead of inflation.

The undeniable fact is that the system for paying lawyers is not under the kind of control we take for granted in other vital areas. One aspect of this runaway expenditure that causes outrage is the high cost of some cases. The top 1 per cent of civil cases use up 14 per cent of civil legal aid and in crime, the top 1 per cent of jury trials cost about 40 per cent of the total spent. The outcry that provokes grows when the people involved seem to be wealthy.

Steps to tackle the problem will continue to be taken. Among the most successful has been the Special Investigations Unit (SIU). Set up in 1996 to investigate the finances of apparently wealthy people in civil cases, its achievements are clear. Of the 211 investigations carried out by the end of March this year, 203 resulted in no legal aid being granted. We must expand the unit's brief quickly to protect the taxpayers' pocket in criminal cases. That is why the Legal Aid Board has now agreed to pull out all the stops to extend the unit's investigation to criminal cases by next summer.

The board has also been quick to learn lessons from notorious cases, such as Dr Hashim's unsuccessful attempt to defend fraud allegations, which could cost the taxpayer £4 million. Not only would the unit now investigate such a case, but the board now sets limits on how long emergency legal aid can last before eligibility is established. It also sets limits on how much work can be done and on expenses incurred by a solicitor without informing the board. Uncomfortable experiences, such as the Hashim case, have also led the board to seek independent legal advice more often on the merits of cases rather than relying on the opinion of the party's own lawyer. At the centre of the Government's

concerns are not just cases like that of Dr Hashim but also multiparty actions. The Benzodiazepine litigation, for example, cost almost £40 million and achieved little for those involved. Because the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, is determined to cut out such waste, he insists thinking already in train about ways of controlling high-cost cases should continue while the more general review of legal aid is being undertaken by Sir Peter Middleton. The first fruit of that was the publication last week of the board's consultation paper, *When the Price is High*.

To discourage lawyers from running weak cases, the board suggests they should part of the risk of losing by being paid less when that happens. To keep costs down, the board also proposes that lawyers should bid for cases, and that price should be a factor in deciding which lawyer takes it on, an innovation in the law which is commonplace elsewhere in life. And to gain a firmer grip still, the winner of the bid would enter a detailed contract with the board, which would include price ceilings, and which could be monitored as the case progressed.

The board's paper raises important issues on which it would be premature for the Government to take a view until both consultations on it and, more importantly, Sir Peter Middleton's wider review of legal aid have been completed. That said, the paper is a valuable contribution to the debate. If anyone wants their views on high-cost civil cases to be taken into account, once Sir Peter has reported in autumn, they would be well advised to respond to the paper promptly. Those responses will also inform consultations on high-cost criminal cases later this year.

No one should doubt the Government's determination to see legal aid providing good value for taxpayers and good quality services for those citizens who need help. But to achieve that, we must get a firm grip on prices charged by lawyers. If we believe that justice is beyond value, it is vital that we make it affordable.

● The author is MP for Ashfield and Parliamentary Secretary at the Lord Chancellor's Department.



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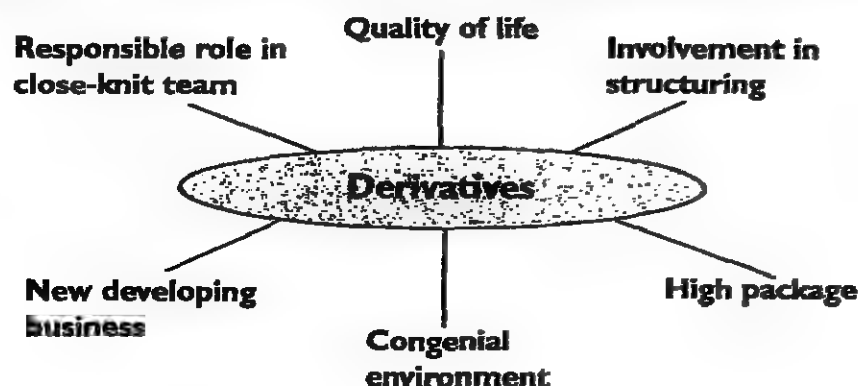
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هكذا من الاميل



## BOXING: BIG MONEY BACKING DISGRACED HEAVYWEIGHT

## Why Tyson must not be allowed in the ring again

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN  
BOXING CORRESPONDENT  
IN LAS VEGAS

EVEN with the memory of Mike Tyson's disgraceful actions in the ring fresh in one's mind, there is much talk in boxing circles about his next fight, which would be expected to exceed \$100 million in purses, \$35 million more than he and Evander Holyfield shared on Saturday here at the MGM Grand Garden.

"Everybody loves a bad guy," one American journalist said. "They want to see what Tyson will do next. That's why the next fight will be even more successful."

If this depressing view is correct, and there is every reason to think that it could be, as big money can get around any problem, it would be a sad commentary on the administrators and promoters of the sport.

While the sight of Tyson tearing off a piece of Holyfield's ear might seem amusing to hardened boxing fans who revel in the sport's seediness, it violated the sensibilities of ordinary lovers of sport. As Jim Thomas, Holyfield's attorney and adviser, said: "I felt embarrassed to have been involved in something so unseemly."

Dr Carole Lieberman, a clinical professor of psychiatry at the University of California, Los Angeles, and psychiatrist to numerous sportsmen and women, said in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* yesterday: "I think he [Tyson] acts on his impulse in much the way a six-year-old would. In this case he wasn't getting his way so he had a temper tantrum and acted upon his basic instincts." Is this the kind of role model that boxing wants young people to admire? Don Turner, Holyfield's trainer, believes that some damage has already been done. "All Tyson's behaviour in the ring will do is encourage kids to buy rap records about biting off ears," he said.

Clearly, Don King, Tyson's promoter, who for once did



Tyson and King, in happier times, celebrating a victory for the former champion

not want any publicity and was not available for comment, will be fighting Tyson's corner at the inquiry into the events of Saturday at the Nevada State Athletic Commission. From his post-fight comments, King did not think that Tyson had done anything particularly reprehensible.

Even if he wanted to, he would find it impossible to bring Tyson under control, especially when the view of John Horne, Tyson's co-manager, is considered. "All I know is Mike's got a cut over his eye three inches long and Evander's got a little nip on his ear that don't mean nothing," Horne said. "He [Holyfield] jumped around like a little bitch, that's what he did."

The MGM and other casinos in Las Vegas and Atlantic City will no doubt be examining the profitability of Tyson fights. Will they make more

money from his contests, regardless of the damage they risk being caused to their hotels, or from families who come to relive the Wizard of Oz and other fantasy experiences at their hotels?

After the Tyson-Holyfield fight, the scene outside the MGM was reminiscent of an action movie. Suddenly, the street was full of shrieking police sirens, people being taken to hospital on stretchers and policemen dodging about behind parked cars with guns at the ready. The MGM must have lost millions as its gaming sections and other facilities had to shut down for the night when boxing fans panicked and stampeded through the hotel on Saturday.

Despite this, Dennis Dahl, of MGM's Sportsbook (the hotel bookmaker), said Holyfield-Tyson III would be a huge success. "People love controversy and how much

more controversial an ending can you get than this?" Dahl said. "I wish it weren't that way, but controversy sells tickets. If they fought again, a lot of people would come to town and there would be long lines at the betting window. If that ever happened, we'd be talking about a huge handle, believe me."

All this brought to mind the words of Steven Spielberg, who said about making films: "Once it used to be 'what if', and now it is 'what the heck'." Dr Ferdie Pacheco, the fight analyst for Showtime, the television company behind Tyson, is right in saying: "Where there's big money, there's big forgiveness and big amnesia, then we can guess that the MGM's decision might well be, what the heck."

That is why the Nevada State Athletic Commission should see that Tyson never boxes again.

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If you would like to discuss the job informally, please ring Lynne Brnar, at the Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit on 01642 254855.

Application forms and further details of this post are available from and should be returned to: Technical Services Department, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, P O Box 229, Kingsway House, West Precinct, Billingham, Tees 220 2PL or by telephoning the staffing section on 01642 397679.

Closing date for applications: Friday, 11th July 1997.

Interviews to be held week commencing 14th July 1997.

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Application forms and general information may be obtained from: The Cayman Islands Government Office, 6 Arlington Street, London SW1A 1RE. Telephone: 0171 491 7779. Closing date for receipt of applications is 14 July.

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## SAILING

**FOOTBALL**

**Solution on page 50**











# Special star sends satellite Briton speeding down to earth



Petchey: at crossroads

TWO worlds inhabited by Mark Petchey collided yesterday. The pristine lawns of Wimbledon's No 1 Court were an acceptable substitute for the crushed anvil of Chandi-garh and the pulverised seashells of the Philippines. Unfortunately, Boris Becker is an entirely different animal from Dennis van Scheppingen or Kalle Flygt.

Petchey subsided to a deliciously old-fashioned British defeat, winning just eight games as he delayed lunch for the corporate hospitality hordes for 97 minutes. It was a civilised submission, all smiles and shrugs, as a supine crowd made one wish: that every day was Middle Sunday.

Becker, in his fourteenth Wimbledon, is playing to embellish a legend. He pays others to fret about his finances. Petchey, at the end of his ninth year on the professional tour, was playing for mortgage money. A "third-round losers" cheque, for £16,810, will ease the culture shock of his passage back to the satellite circuit.

"I hate to think what sort of places

I've been to," he said. "Some places I will never go back to, that's for sure. I don't really want to remember them. I've kind of pushed it to the back of my mind. You can't imagine the difference between Wimbledon and the Indian satellite. It's just like going to the moon."

A four-week tour of India, for tournaments in Jaipur, Chandigarh, Delhi and Calcutta, offers anonymity, suspect food and indescribable hotel rooms. Matches are played, without spectators and line judges, on recycled soil that is ground down to resemble clay.

The weekly prize fund for such events is £25,000, and a handful of computer points that are the hard currency of professional tennis. Meanwhile, the All England Club will distribute the little matter of £6,884,352 to the players this year.

A sense of scale, not to mention a sense of the surreal, is essential to such men as Petchey and Flygt, who beat him in the first round of the Malaysian tournament in Malacca in April. Petchey, approaching his 27th birthday, is quickly reaching



the crossroads of his career. He has lost his Davis Cup place and his world ranking, as high as 80 in August 1994, has slipped to 207. His first wedding anniversary, on Saturday, will increase the temptation to think beyond his cameo appearance in the British tennis explosion.

"Nine years is a long time to go to places where you turn up, check into some basic hotel and just go and play on something that's not even a park court," Petchey said. "After a while, if your ranking is on the slide, there is no motivation to do that. There is a point in my life when I'm sure I'll just sit down and say: 'No,

Michael Calvin finds Mark Petchey hungry for another taste of the high life after his defeat by Boris Becker

this is enough. I'll just do something else."

"Right now, I've got an overwhelming desire to get my ranking back, but I don't think, if I'm at 200 in 12 months' time, I'll particularly want to keep going. There's no doubt tennis is getting tougher and tougher. There are fewer tournaments for someone whose ranking is where mine is. You have to have a belief in yourself, that you can overcome all the young guys coming through."

The honourable 6-3, 6-3, 6-2 defeat by Becker yesterday confirmed that the differences in class are minute, and certainly unrecognisable to the type of audience for whom Wimble-

don is merely another stop on the summer social circuit. If Sunday's drug of choice was Ecstasy, Monday's was Mogadon.

After the terrace chants in Henman's name, it was back to trite entreaties like "Come on Mark", which were answered, in an irritating instant, by stunningly original pleas to "Come on Boris". Petchey, probably surprised that they remembered his Christian name, somehow gave the impression that he was enjoying it hugely. He even applauded Becker when he won a set point against him.

Such enthusiasm was endearing and understandable. It was the first time that Petchey had reached the third round in a grand-slam event. Becker, winner of six grand-slam titles, is an ideal role model for a journeyman.

As Petchey said: "You don't win this tournament three times without being a bit special, and Boris is special. I think there's a positive feeling about British tennis. With Greg and Tim, and the rest of British sport, doing so well, you can

see everyone is enjoying life. Everyone is upbeat and we've got to keep that going. Sport is a key part of the nation's spirit."

The thing about tennis is that it is a great learning curve for your life. I started off going to places like North Africa, worked my way up and got into main tour events. You get a great high from being there. You're pampered silly. But I've dropped away. I'm back to almost where I started.

"It makes you realise that, on the way up, you'd better be nice to everyone because, on the way down, it's just as bad. You're back playing the same places, and there are people there who, if you weren't too nice to them before, are not going to help you out."

Becker would have approved. The lines of his life are not restricted to the lines drawn on a tennis court. In the coming weeks, Petchey will continue to try to salvage his career as Challenger tournaments in Bristol and Manchester. You do not have to be a one-eyed patriot to wish him well.

## Sampras revels in secret of his supremacy

My old friend Frances Edmonds, writing a piece about England cricketers in which she described Paul Allott as "a Botham clone, but slimmer and brighter. Who isn't?", summed up another player as "rather good at cricket". I can't remember which player she meant, which rather proves her point.

Now comes the moment to sum up Pete Sampras. The phrase "rather good at tennis" comes to mind, but it is inaccurate. Seriously superb at tennis is much better. But what of the inner Sampras, the Pete within? All is mystery.

He was seriously superb yesterday when he took on Byron Black. Byron found a Hellenic-wide gap in class and he never looked like swimming across. Sampras won 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 in 11 minutes over the hour.

I was somewhat incongruously quoted in another newspaper this week as "a reserved tennis commentator", and as such, I feel it incumbent on me to reveal the secret of Sampras's skills. Here we go: Sampras has a very good forehand; he also has a very good backhand. Add this to a very good service and you have something really rather good.

Tennis is one of the world's most theatrical games and many of its great players have used their sense of theatre as a potent weapon. Connors and McEnroe are but the most obvious examples. Both were capable of using their reputations, their ability to communicate with crowds, almost as extra shots in the armoury.

SIMON BARNES



At Wimbledon

Tim Henman is not an extreme performer in that line, certainly no audience-milker. But you can read him: the first-clenching, the mindless shark grin he makes by biting on his back teeth as an opportunity opens up. The epic of Middle Sunday turned on the two-way communication between Henman and the crowd.

Tennis is a drama and an important part of its means of communication is body language. But Sampras does not have body language like everybody else. He is that rare thing: a top-level athlete whose body is almost mute.

There is just one instance in which he gives himself away, and he did it on match point yesterday. That is in his trademark "slam-dunk" shot, an overhead played with a slightly unnecessary leap and with about ten times more power than is actually required. It is his one self-indulgence, his one bit of flamboyance.



Sampras, poised for victory over Black yesterday, continues to make remorseless progress towards another title

It is the one clue to the fact that he is secretly enjoying himself out there: that he loves his power, his physical well-being, his ability to hit tennis balls so hard that they never come back. It also tells us that he really likes beating the hell out of an opponent, that he loves combat and, above all, victory. Then it is back behind the mask, back to that curious, miserable-looking head carriage, the hang of the head that looks as if he is in danger of wearing holes in his shirt with his chin.

He will never be the hottest item in tennis, not in the first week of Wimbledon, when leading players usually win.

Those players whose stock-in-trade is their theatricality steal the scenes and the headlines; those who trade only in ability must bide their time until the competition gets hotter. Only then can they show us what they are made of.

Sampras has said before that he really likes it when Andre Agassi is playing. Agassi can draw the media's fire; Sampras can soak in behind him. "I prefer being not really looked at," he said yesterday, a strange remark for a man whose trade is public performance. "I just like to play my tennis. I don't ever want to be the centre of attention. I hope that doesn't change. Right

now, Henman and Rusedski are playing really well and taking up a lot of attention — and that's perfect."

He is as diffident a man as ever played the hide off anyone on a tennis court. After winning his first grand-slam title at 19, he went into a decline, hated the attention and the expectations, spoke about the "burden" of being a champion. I, unerring judge that I am, couldn't see him ever pulling himself together again. He has, gathering another eight grand-slam titles, three of them here.

There is much, much more to Sampras than meets the eye. He is a man of secrets. As

others have used their theatricality as weapons, so Sampras exploits his anonymity. He shows no weakness, no triumph. He is the tennis equivalent of the Man With No Name. You cannot read him, you cannot reach him. In his brooding mystery, he is disquieting; even slightly sinister.

He can impose an icy mental grip on his opponent, and certainly he did so to poor old Black. When it came to the tennis yesterday, Sampras was not magnificent. He was better than that — he was immaculate. Anyone who bet the mortgage on him winning the championship will be sleeping soundly tonight.



Rafter, left, discusses tactics with his compatriot, Philippoussis, during yesterday's doubles victory

## Jensens offer colourful interlude

By NICK SZECSENYI

A WEEK after starting his first match at Wimbledon, Mark Philippoussis finally played his second here yesterday and enjoyed better luck, reaching the second round of the men's doubles with his compatriot, Pat Rafter. However, while his many supporters will be glad of the opportunity to see more of him, the competition will be the poorer for the exit of the Australians' opponents, the Jensen brothers.

The Michigan-born Jen-

sens are a colourful partnership and more than just the entertaining sideshow they sometimes appear: their career earnings top the \$1 million mark and there is a French Open championship to their name, won in 1993. Yesterday, with Luke favouring a star-spangled bandana as headgear, while brother Murphy sported a white, back-to-front baseball cap, they were never still, jogging on to court, off court and out of their two-man, between-points huddles.

They are all heart — Luke

presented a towel to a spectator hit by a wild deflection — polite — always thanking the ball-boys and girls — and can play, too.

Murphy produced one delicate cross-court, drop-volley that wrong-footed both opponents, while Luke stood up to a fierce Philippoussis volley at the net to win a point when others might have dived for cover. Yet, after taking the first set with a break at Philippoussis's expense, the Jensens found the Australians too hard to handle, losing 6-4, 3-6, 4-6.

Neil Broad, who won a silver medal with Tim Henman for Great Britain at the Olympic Games in Atlanta, reached the third round of the doubles with Piet Norval, of South Africa. Shirin-An Siddall and Amanda Wainwright reached the second round of the women's doubles, while Clare Wood and her partner, Catherine Barclay, of Australia, must play Gigi Fernandez and Natasha Zvereva, the No 1 seeds, after a 4-6, 7-6, 6-4 victory over the No 16 seeds, Kristie Boogert and Irina Spirlea.

### RESULTS FROM WIMBLEDON

#### Men's singles

Winner: £118,000

Runner-up: £207,500

Holder: R Krajicek (Hol)

First round

P SAMPRAS (US) bt B Black (Zim) 6-1,

6-2, 6-2

P KORDA (Cz) bt A O'Brien (US) 6-3, 4-

6, 6-3, 6-7, 6-4

M RIOS (Chil) bt J van Lottum (Hol) 7-

6, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4

B BECKER (Ger) bt M Petchey (GB) 6-2,

6-3, 6-2

Y KAFELNIKOV (Russ) bt J Stoltenberg

(Aus) 6-3, 7-6, 4-6, 6-3

N Kiefer (Ger) bt A MEDVEDEV (Ukr) 6-

4, 6-2, 6-7, 6-4

P RAFTTER (Aus) bt C van Gansbe (Bel) 7-

5, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3

T Woodbridge (Aus) bt A Radulescu

(Ger) 6-4, 6-4, 6-4

Second round

N BROAD (GB) and P NORVAL (SA) bt C

Brandt and F Messon (It) 7-6, 6-1

W Black (Zim) and J Grabb (US) bt E

Sanchez (Sp) and F Samir (Fr) 7-

5, 6-4

B Beltrami (US) and C Haggard (SA) bt

P Albano (Arg) and S Dowdell (Cz)

7-6, 6-7, 6-4

S Green (Hol) and S Henson (Cry) bt D

Rendall and J White (US) 6-7, 6-4, 6-

2

J Knapik (Ger) and J Tawango (US)

bt G CONNELL (Can) and S Davis

(US) 6-4, 6-7, 6-3

R LEACH and J STARK (US) bt K

Kinross (US) and A Kinnor (Bel) 6-

3, 7-6

M DAMM and P VIZNER (Cz) bt E Couro

and B Moss (Fr) 6-4, 7-6, 7-6

J BJORKMAN and N Kuti (Swe) bt B

Black (Zim) and J Grabb (US) 6-

2, 6-1

First round

B Haysgraff (SA) and G van Emborgh

(US) bt O Delafre and G Raoux (Fr)

7-6, 6-2

J Novek and D Ral (Cz) bt M Kral and J

Sabraton (US) 7-5, 6-3

S STOLLE (Aus) and C SUK (Cz) bt D

Dalca (US) and R Smith (Bel) 6-0,

3-6, 6-4

D JOHNSON and F MONTANA (US) bt P

Casi (Aus) and R Rensberg (US) 3-

6, 6-3, 6-4

J ELTINGH and P HAARHUIS (Hol) bt P

Kloster and M Tabbutt (Aus) 7-6, 7-

6, 6-3

A Ochoavsky (Russ) and B Steven (NZ)

bt J Delgado and A Foster (GB) 4-6, 7-

5, 6-4

T WOODBRIDGE and M WOODFORD

(Aus) bt N Pereira (Ven) and C van

Rensberg (SA) 6-1, 6-4

M PHILIPPOUSSIS and P RAFTTER (Aus)

bt L Jensen and M Jensen (US) 4-6,

6-3, 6-4

B McEnroe (US) and G Muller (SA) bt M

Petchey and A L Richardson (GB) 7-

6, 6-3

Sunday's late results

S Noveboom and F Wipfler (Hol) bt S

LAPEAU (Can) and A O'BRIEN (US)

7-6, 3-6, 6-4

Black and Grabb (US) bt A Jones and S

Couro and Moss (Fr) 6-4, 6-7, 6-2

Couro and Moss (Fr) 6-4, 6-7, 6-2

Kinross and Kinnor (US) bt P Blair and M

Gohler (Ger) 7-6, 6-7, 14-12

Women's singles

Winner: £373,500

Runner-up: £188,750

Holder: S Graf (Ger)

Third round

M Vento (Ven) bt M Maleeva (Bul) 6-2, 7-

6, 6-2

D Chladkova (Cz) bt R Zrubakova

(Slovakia) 6-7, 6-3, 6-6

P Hy-Boulos (Can) bt M Grzybowski

(Pol) 6-4, 6-1

Y Baccus (Indo) bt N Kijimuta (Japan) 6-

3, 6-2

M J PERNANDEZ (US) bt T Terasagum

(Thai) 6-2, 6-4

J NOVOTNA (Cz) bt G Leon-Garcia (Sp)

6-4, 6-2

A SANCHEZ VICARIO (Sp) bt F Labat

(Arg) 6-1, 6-2

M PERCEC (Fr) bt M Serra (Sp) 6-4, 6-3

N Tauscher (Fr) bt J Wiesner (Austria) 3-6,

6-3, 6-2

S Tauscher (Fr) bt M SELES (US) 6-6, 6-4,

6-6

#### Sunday's late result

A Kournikova (Russ) bt A HUBER (Ger)

3-6, 6-4, 6-4

Women's doubles

Winners: £147,010

Runners-up: £73,270

Holder: M Hings (Swe) and

H Sukova (Cz)

Second round

A FRAZIER and K PO (US) bt T Jones

(US) and M Jane (Cry) 6-2, 6-3

L NIELAND (Lat) and H SUKOVA (Cz) bt

O Lugina (Ukr) and E Wagner (Ger)

6-3, 6-2

N ARENDT (US) and M BOLLEGRAPF

(Hol) bt S H Park (S Kor) and S

Viang (Thailand) 6-2, 6-0

K ADAMS and L McNeil (US) bt B

Ritter (Ger) and D van Roost (Bel)

6-3, 1-6, 6-4

C Barclay (Aus) and C Wood (GB) bt K

BOGGERT (Hol) and I SPIRLEA

(Rom) 4-6, 7-6, 6-4

C RUBIN (US) and B SCHULTZ-

MACARTHUR (Hol) bt M Saeli and Y

Yoshida (Japan) 7-6, 6-3

Y BAZUKI (Indo) and C VIS (Hol) bt L

Gernone and G Piccinini (It) 6-7, 6-

4, 6-2

S APPELMANS (Bel) and M OREMAN

(Hol) bt A Dechamps-Ballard and S

Tessut (Fr) 6-4, 6-3

M J PERNANDEZ and L RAYMOND (US)

bt C Crabbie (Rom) and M

Grzybowski (Pol) 6-3, 6-0

L DAVENPORT (US) and J NOVOTNA

(Cz) bt D Graham (US) and K Kuncze

(Aust) 6-1, 6-2

M HINGS (Swe) and A SANCHEZ

VICARIO (Sp) bt K-A Guse (Aus)

and O Moratu (US) 6-2, 6-3

G FERNANDEZ (US) and N Zvereva

(Bel) bt K Freye (Ger) and S



# Love game loses its attraction without vital Agassi-factor

LYNNE TRUSS



Kicking and Screaming

What really makes a decent Wimbledon for the lay observer, of course, is a bit of love interest. Hence the crushing disappointment in the Truss home when heart-throb Goran Ivanisevic stalked out defeated on Saturday. Goran (whose real personality may be pure pussycat, for all I know) projects the sort of intense, churlish male character that an inadequate woman has masochistic fantasies about. "Hurt me, Goran! Go on! Forget my birthday, you insensitive but thrilling, churlish brute!"

But now Big Goran has gone. Apparently his continued presence here depended on his ability to win matches. What a curious way to run an entertainment industry.

Yesterday, we had various would-be heart-throbs competing for catcall attention on the outside courts, but it's no good, they are mere shadows of the greats. I never thought I'd say it, but by comparison with the rest of the anodyne male grand slam giants on the tennis circuit, Pete (no charisma) Sampras is beginning to look like Clark Gable.

Imagine getting worked up about Kafelnikov — you can't can you? Philippoussis and Rafter looked damned handsome by contrast with their doubles opponents, the Jensen brothers, but since the Jensens work hard to resemble refugees from a Beavis and Butthead cartoon, it wasn't difficult.

Admittedly, I fell under the spell of Andre Agassi in his exquisite blond period, a thing from which I will possibly never recover. I bought an Andre Agassi calendar, and everything. I've gone off him a bit in his peculiar Marat-un-



Head start: Rios, main picture, and Pierce show off their pony-tails during their matches yesterday

the-bath period. But I will never forget how much I once really, really cared. For men, of course, Wimbledon is a different event. It's a chance for them to see girls fiddling with their knickers, which makes them go all peculiar and lower their aesthetic standards. The strange popularity of Mary Pierce is a case in point.

Yesterday, in impractical and ill-fitting crop-top, Miss Pierce received her usual share of "Go on Mary's" — but her famed magnetism is an utter mystery to me. I mean, if it was just a matter of showing your midriff occasionally, we'd all do it.

Mary tweaks at her clothes — a tug here, a hoick there, a pat in another place, then another hoick and tug. All of which shows her to be body-conscious, of course, but it also gets on one's nerves. Buy some clothes that fit you, Mary. I'm sure you can afford it.

But the real trouble with

Mary Pierce is that when her elders whispered to her in the cradle "You're never fully dressed without a smile," she pulled a face and stopped her ears. A little madam is what my Mum would call her.

This is a woman for whom the expression "Is it something at home?" was invented. And yet that sharp, minx face evidently holds the keys to certain potent dreams. Hans Holbein used to paint portraits of those pale features in the 16th century — "Girl with gerbil", that sort of thing. Four hundred and fifty years ago, she'd have been the very dab.

So, the sex quotient was pretty low yesterday. All week, I had been dug deep in the ribs with the *sotto voce* tip "You ought to go and see Rios!" but I've seen this supposed crowd-pleaser three times now and I still don't get it at all.

Marcelo Rios is the Chilean star who declared "Grass is for cows" when he first played in Britain, and whose resemblance to Naomi Campbell's gypsey boyfriend is often noted. He has a black pony-tail combined imaginatively with a crew cut, and his eyes are too close together. All of which might be exciting in a red-hot kind of way if his tennis had notable grandeur or surprise, which it hasn't.

The point is, I suppose, that glamour isn't everything. A diamond navel-stud in a blonde tennis-babe has limited attraction, in the long run. More people turned up for Seles than Pierce, and she's been wearing a dress specially designed to accentuate the spare tyre that she's been carrying.

No, what we want is big, inspiring personalities out there — big inspiring personalities with decent legs (the legs are negotiable). Personally I went right off men's



tennis in the 1980s not only because Lendl was sultrified to watch, but because I couldn't stand the way his socks stayed up. Compare, however, my excitement when that true star Andre Agassi shaved off his body hair. As I have often said, I wouldn't mind having the three-piece suite he stuffed with that little lot.

Actually, of all the bids for physical appeal at this Wimbledon, the one that will stick longest in the mind is Chris Evert at the opening ceremony for No. 1 Court. She wore a short skirt and the sight of her long brown slender legs was breathtaking — inducing in me the reaction Piglet has in Winnie the Pooh when he sees

the blue braces and has to go home and lie down. Martina looked good too (though Billie Jean had let herself go), but Chris Evert was quite fabulous. Here is a woman who never needed a diamond navel-stud to get herself noticed.

The sight of those legs did make me wonder, however. How long does it take a tennis player to get their feet the same colour as their legs? Ten weeks? Two years? Five? We all know how hard it is to get rid of strap marks. Or to get the rest of the grass to tone in with a bit of replacement turf. Well, imagine those palid, enormous feet on the ends of those long brown legs. Not very sexy, really. In fact, it's enough to put you right off.

## Hy-Boulais finds fault in Grzybowski's game-plan

BY NICK SZCZEPANIK

WHEN Magdalena Grzybowski dropped her service to concede the first set of her third-round match against Paul Hy-Boulais, the Canadian-born Canadian, everything seemed to be going according to plan.

After all, she had lost the first set 6-4 in each of her previous two games, against Venus Williams and Barbara Schett, and had come back to win.

The service had sharpened up the big two-handed backhand had come into its own, and runs of winning games had seen off her opponents.

Yesterday, however, the plan never came into effect. The double faults just kept on coming in the second set, and so did Hy-Boulais, returning strongly, and appearing at the net just when Grzybowski least expected it.

Grzybowski, from Poland, lost her service to love to go 5-1 down, ending with — what else — a double fault. Leaving the comeback a little late this time, one felt; but in fact there was to be no escape. Hy-Boulais finishing the game with the last of a number of drop shots and a delighted but discreet "Yes!"

It had been a match of contrasts: Grzybowski, 18, the tall, hard-hitting baseliner, the smaller, dark-haired Hy-Boulais, 13 years her senior, who made every ounce of her experience count.

"She was tall, but she wasn't serving great; my serve was

lot to learn and she has to get stronger, but she has the material. It's up to her."

"My serve didn't work at all," Grzybowski admitted. "When she saw that, she felt better and took advantage. She's a good player on grass and didn't give me a chance. I have to be more aggressive, go to the net more and play my game, even if the other player doesn't let me."

The draw looks promising for Hy-Boulais, who eliminated Amanda Coetzer, the No. 6 seed, in the second round and now plays Yayuk Basuki. "I played remarkably well against Coetzer; everything worked. It's even nicer to know I kept it going," Hy-Boulais said. "The next round is very tough. Her [Basuki's] game is very suitable for grass." And after that? "I don't want to be overconfident — I'll see who I play."

After her first-round win, premature predictions were made about Grzybowski's likely progress at Wimbledon: now she will return to Poland to play in exotic locations such as Sopot. "I hoped to go further, but getting to the third round was my biggest success so far," she said. "I will be back."

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# A serial portrait painter, serially revisited

Just as there are never-knowingly-underdog politicians, who can be relied on to comment on anything from the state of Anglo-Irish relations to the state of their underpants, it turns out that there are artists who are never-knowingly-underdog. What is so surprising is that the unlikely, home-loving, 57-year-old Royal Academician Anthony Green should be among them.

To his credit, it surprises Green as much as anyone that requests from documentary-makers drop through his letterbox as regularly as gas bills. He certainly can't be saying yes to them in search of fame and fortune, not after his 1987 *South Bank Show*. "When the programme went out," he recalls, blushing at his naivety, "I thought it would probably change my life radically. Nothing happened. The phone didn't ring. I didn't sell an extra drawing or watercolour." So much for the power of television,

though, to be fair, this was long before Melvyn Bragg got his lustrious Elvis quiff.

All this explains why BBC1's *Omnibus* portrait of Green was entitled *Fifty-Seven Up*. The title had nothing to do with cricket scores, or some improbable feat being performed for the *Guinness Book of Records*. It was a reference to those Granada documentaries which traced the lives of a group of children, beginning with *Seven Up*. You see, last night's *Omnibus* was the third Green film directed by Nigel Williams. His previous stabs were in 1979 and 1971 - when Green was still a young, bowler-hatted Slade graduate who looked like a rabbinical student on his way to a Toulouse-Lautrec look-alike competition.

But the entertaining conceit was that by filming Green again and again over the years, Williams is

search of subject matter. He could put in a full day's work without ever changing out of his pyjamas. Green loves his wife, the artist Mary Cozens-Walker. "Without her I doubt whether I would ever paint another picture," he loves his family. He loves the texture and cadences of home life, and the childhood memories that have seeped like ink stains into the ornaments on his mantelpiece.

Green doesn't go out looking for hamburgers, because he can eat steak at home. He returns, in intimate detail, to similar themes again and again - "I try hard to hang my washing up in public" - but each time bringing something new to the RA's Summer Exhibition this year is *Eden CB37E*, the domestic postcard as nirvana. Green calls it: "A love story. It takes you through the Garden of Eden and,

## REVIEW



Joe Joseph

ultimately, the spectator joins the uniting couple in paradise.

Williams, by returning again and again with his camera crew, has achieved something similar: each time we are faced with a familiar subject - Anthony Green - but with a novel twist. Even more spookily, Williams's technique of punctuating this latest documentary with long clips of his previous 1979 *Arden* film (which,

itself, included scenes of Green in a darkened room reviewing footage of Williams's original 1971 documentary) created an effect like looking down the wrong end of a telescope: this take-within-a-take is an Anthony Green trademark.

For example, leading us through one of his paintings in which an artist is painting a portrait of his wife, Green explains: "You get a picture within a picture. You see views through doors and the spectator is led right into the painting, so that you move right up close to the canvas surface."

What you see there is that within Green's picture is the painting-in-progress of the model. She is wearing a lock. This contains another painting, namely the artist's rendering of the real lock, which is over here. And it's meant to be a sort of picture, so an first appearance you think you're looking at a small tree in the spring, and on closer inspection you're

delightfully surprised." Provided, that is, that a lock-sized close-up of a woman's crotch is the sort of thing that delights you.

Unlike Green, Channel 4's *Secret History* packs a rucksack and heads into the unknown to find its subjects, until the day arrives when it looks out of the window, feels thwarted by the rain, and decides just to stay home and expose the scandal of who invented doorknobs that play Cliff Richard's *Devil Woman*. The *Tragedy of HMS Glorious* recounted how, in June 1940, the aircraft carrier *HMS Glorious* and her two escort destroyers were sunk by German battleships off Norway. Some 900 had taken to the boats, but nobody came to their rescue. Only 41 survived. An embarrassed Navy still denies it, but *Secret History* insists that a last desperate message for help was picked up by a nearby British

cruiser, *HMS Devonshire*, and apparently ignored. Trevor Jenkins, the *Devonshire's* Chief Petty Officer, who took the message, says: "It's been on my conscience ever since."

Because of its timing, the phrase had a poignancy the film-makers could not have intended. Chris Patten, sailing home from Hong Kong, must be hoping he never has to utter the same words about the handover to China.

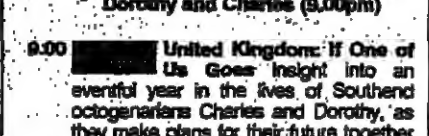
There was plenty of conscience-wrestling in *Brookside* (Channel 4), too. Mick and Elaine have been doing their best to ease the pain of Gladys's cancer, but it's clear that Gladys wants to end it all. Mick and Elaine get the hint and realise that over the next few days they must carry the enormous burden of helping Gladys to end her life in a manner so controversial that it will ensure *Brookside's* reputation as the soap opera that is never knowingly underplayed.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (47130)
  - 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (12307)
  - 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (12307/178)
  - 9.20 Ready, Steady, Cook (1273284)
  - 9.50 Kilroy (1455552)
  - 10.30 Who'd Do the Pudding? (31438)
  - 11.00 News (1) and weather (7436130)
  - 11.05 Due South (1) (596371)
  - 11.30 Good Neighbours: Fans of the soap reminisce about their favourite characters (1) (255)
  - 12.00 News (1) and weather (8614623)
  - 12.05pm Call My Bluff (6681371)
  - 12.35 Neighbours (1) (849130)
  - 1.00 News (1) and weather (82884)
  - 1.30 Regional News (1) (42924401)
  - 1.40 Wimbledon 97: Desmond Lynam introduces further coverage (3835875)
  - 4.10 Rugrats (1) (4701081) 4.35 Round the Twist (1) (8495420) 5.00 Newround (1) (1458888) 5.10 Achy-S (1) (4124001)
  - 5.35 Neighbours (1) (874842)
  - 6.00 News (1) and weather (23)
  - 6.30 Regional News Magazine (75)
  - 7.00 Summer Holiday: Martin Bell, MP returns to Croatia to report on the country's new battle to encourage tourists; Jayne Evans takes a summer break on the Great Barrier Reef; Lisa Sharma has a great time on Gran Canaria (1) (7285)
  - 7.30 EastEnders: Ted's seriously aware the verdict of his court case; Huw and Lenny investigate their tenancy rights (1) (59)
  - 8.00 The Driving School: A woman has a company car but cannot drive it, a man is nervous about learning to drive at 52, and three trainees start on the Thames Valley Police advanced driving course which trains them to drive at speeds of up to 140mph (1) (8913)
  - 8.30 Only Fools and Horses: Del and Rodney's soft hearts persuade them to take Granddad along on their holiday trip abroad (1) (5420)
  - 9.00 News (1), Regional News and weather (1062)
  - 9.30 The Broker's Man: Drama series about the work of insurance investigator Jimmy Griffin (Kevin Whately). A fatal motorcycle crash leads Griffin into the world of illegal motorbike racing, while a computer error has led to a town's water supply becoming contaminated (1) (728304)
  - 10.20 The X-Files: Red Museum: Mulder and Scully travel to Wisconsin to investigate a religious cult (1) (137722)
  - 11.05 Deep Red (1994) with Michael, Blair, Joanna Pacula and Lisa Collins. A private detective is hired to find a missing scientist working on the secret of immortality. But he is soon told of the death as the true nature of the investigation comes to light. Directed by Craig R. Baxley (1) (418225)
  - 12.25am Another Woman (1988) Woody Allen comedy about a middle-aged woman who is prompted to reassess her life when she overhears conversations between a psychiatrist and his patient. With Gene Hackman and Mia Farrow (1) (740173)
  - 1.45am-1.50am Weather (2653055)

**VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode.**

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

- BBC2**
- 6.00am Open University: Ottoman Supremacy. The building of the Sultanahmet Mosque (12307/178)
  - 6.25 Supremacy: The building of the Sultanahmet Mosque (12307/178)
  - 6.50 Modern Art: Film-making. Eisenstein and Vertov's political ideology (427739)
  - 7.15 See Hear: Breakfast News (1) (838468)
  - 7.30 Moonlight (1) (7417826) 7.55 Get Your Own Back (1) (8385178) 8.20 The Brink (1) (8385158) 8.35 The Record (2588888)
  - 9.00 Yesterday at Wimbledon: Sue Barker introduces highlights of yesterday's play (84159)
  - 10.00 Teleubbies (88555) 10.30 Wiskey Through the Seasons: A stroll through Wesley's famous garden during the summer months (8004371) 11.20 Sea Heart Magazine series for the hard of hearing (1) (5555130) 11.50 Johnson and Friends (2451552)
  - 12.00 Wimbledon 97: Desmond Lynam and Sue Barker present action from the ninth day in SW19, including: News and weather at 3.00pm and 3.55 (8585158)
  - 8.30 The Hong Kong Handover: China Celebrates John Yau: presents highlights of the former British Colony's first day under Chinese sovereignty (3082)



Dorothy and Charles (9.00pm)

- 9.00 United Kingdom: If One of Us Goes: Insight into the lives of Southend organgrinders Charles and Dorothy, as they make plans for their future together (1) (904)
- 9.30 Today at Wimbledon: Sue Barker and Piers Shriver review the key moments from this afternoon's matches (46807) Followed by UK Image (596772)
- 10.30 Newswatch (1) (12994)
- 11.15 50 Blue Steps: The stresses of touring begin to take their toll on John Shuttleworth and his entourage as a typical rock'n'roll tantrum disrupts proceedings on day two of the national tour in Manchester, and the open-air concert, which agent Ken Worthington promised to be a masterpiece (510401)
- 11.45 United Kingdom: Under the Cloak: A woman attempts to keep residents calm in her Catholic community in Lower Ormeau, Northern Ireland, as the Orange Order brings chaos to the area (244555)
- 11.55 Weather (866449)
- 12.00 The Midnight Hour: Discussion show dealing with the latest developments in Parliament (92600)
- 12.30am Learning Zone: Open University: Going Through a Phase (73221) 1.00 Docklands: The City on the Edge (73211) 1.30 New Hips for Old (80902) 2.00 Summer Nights: Discovering Art Collections (56463) 4.00 BBC Focus: Teaching and Learning with IT (22821) 4.30 Film Education (84378) 5.00 Inside Europe (42668) 5.30 Film Education (83519)

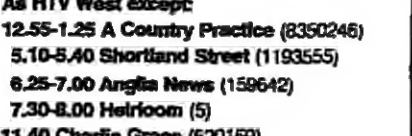
- HTV**
- 6.00am GMTV (3979054)
  - 6.25 Supremacy: The building of the Sultanahmet Mosque (12307/178)
  - 6.50 Regional News (12307/178)
  - 10.00 The Time, The Place (85081)
  - 10.30 This Morning (94457772)
  - 12.20pm Regional News (8910807)
  - 12.30 News (1) and weather (555555)
  - 12.54 HTV Crime Stories (33760438) 12.55 Shortland Street (8380246) 1.25 Home and Away (1) (37055791) 1.50 Liz Earle's Lifestyle (5847894) (1) 2.20 Winnetka Road (1) (8240082)
  - 3.20 News (1) (1483332)
  - 3.25 Regional News (1426223)
  - 3.30 Batman: The Animated Series (1073420) 3.50 Zed the Dog (1073604) 4.00 Scooby Doo (7307082) 4.10 The Twisted Tales of Felix the Cat (7383246) 4.20 Waynehead (1) (4792333) 4.45 Totally California (1) (847772)
  - 5.10 Highway to Heaven (22) (1193555)
  - 5.40 News (1) and weather (401820)
  - 5.57 Poken Count (515913)
  - 6.00 Home and Away (1) (888517)
  - 6.25 HTV Weather (777826)
  - 6.30 The West Tonight (1)
  - 7.00 Emmerdale (1) (2333)
  - 7.30 Tele 3 Reports on issues affecting the region (5)
  - 8.00 The Bill: A disgruntled convict makes complaints that jeopardise his chances of being released (1) (1081)
  - 8.30 The Paranormal World of Paul McKenna: Psychic George Anderson claims to help a heavily bereaved mother put questions to the spirit of her deceased son (1) (7888)



Miller, Cook and Sankocha (9.00pm)

- 9.00 Murder Squad: First in a new series of fly-on-the-wall documentaries tracing police investigations into homicide crimes. The first case covered is that of an Asian couple murdered on the same night two girls were subjected to a nightmarish sexual ordeal. Detectives Sam Miller and Dave Cook try to establish a possible link between the crimes and build up a picture of the offender (1) (7772)
- 10.00 News (1) and weather (11555)
- 10.30 Regional News (825555)
- 10.40 Farwell to Hong Kong: Trevor Atwood presents a history of the former colony (1) (887828)
- 11.40 New York News (120150)
- 12.40am Dating the Enemy (5555173)
- 1.40 Late and Loud (8685173)
- 2.40 The Chart Show (1) (3423801)
- 3.20 Sound Bites (7339558)
- 3.40 Pt. French Grand Prix (1) (8609885)
- 4.35 The Time, The Place (1) (2231463)
- 5.00 Hairroom (1) (39192)
- 5.30 News (24043)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:
  - 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (8350246)
  - 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1193555)
  - 6.25-7.00 Central News (155642)
  - 7.30-8.00 Blairhead Palace (5)
  - 11.40 Highlander (520159)
  - 12.40am Collins and Macdonald's Movie Club (8428024)
  - 1.10 Film: Dead Cert (522214)
  - 2.55 In Focus (6673622)
  - 3.35 The Big Match Replayed (9723172)
  - 4.15 Central Afternoon '97 (8413550)
  - 5.20 Asian Eye (8615376)
- WESTCOUNTRY**
- As HTV West except:
  - 12.55 Home and Away (8964082)
  - 1.20-1.50 Emmerdale (86054438)
  - 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1193555)
  - 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (22159)
  - 7.30-8.00 Westcountry (5)
  - 11.40 Highlander (520159)



Croatian scene of horror (9.00pm)

- MERIDIAN**
- As HTV West except:
  - 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1193555)
  - 6.00 Meridian Tonight (91)
  - 6.30-7.00 The Antiques Trail (1)
  - 7.30-8.00 Serve You Right Live (5)
  - 11.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (520159)
  - 5.00am FreeScreen (30192)
- ANGEL**
- As HTV West except:
  - 12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (8350246)
  - 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1193555)
  - 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (159642)
  - 7.30-8.00 Hairroom (5)
  - 11.40 Charlie Grace (520159)
- Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (70468)
- 7.00 The Big Breakfast (27555)
  - 9.00 Switched (86604)
  - 9.30 Film: Elephant Boy (14623)
  - 11.00 Animal Passions (4536)
  - 12.30 Springhill (5268)
  - 12.30pm Ricki Lake (38710)
  - 1.00 Slot Methrill (25538791)
  - 1.15 Pingu (25534246)
  - 1.30 Corrie! (7980642)
  - 1.50 Film: The Desert Fox (48064178)
  - 3.30 Here's One I Made Earlier (49)
  - 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (4)
  - 4.30 Fishers of Galilee (3)
  - 5.00 5 Pump (5801307)
  - 5.15 Pet & Pardon (1544333)
  - 5.30 Countdown (20)
  - 6.00 Newsworld (482246)
  - 6.05 News (87923)
  - 6.35 Jac yn Y Bocs (751888)
  - 7.00 Pobl y Cwm (98994)
  - 7.25 Tu Hwyl I Deall (247791)
  - 8.00 Llewod (970623)
  - 8.30 Newsworld (8130)
  - 9.00 Reunion (4642)
  - 10.00 Brookside (435197)
  - 10.35 NYPO Blue (565401)
  - 11.30 Northern Exposure (806061)
  - 12.25am My Brother (3233005)

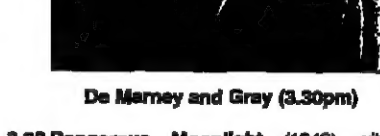
- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.00am Sesame Street (1) (70468) 7.00 Big Breakfast (27555) 9.00 Switched (1) (86604) 9.30 Vets in the Wild (1) (57062)
  - 10.30 Charley's Aunt (1941, b/w) with Jack Benny Comedy about an Oxford undergraduate who is persuaded to impersonate a fellow student's wealthy aunt. Directed by Archie Mayo (78994)
  - 12.00 House to House (18458) 12.30pm Caroline in the City (1) (38710) 1.00 Springhill (1) (20642) 1.30 Pete Smith Specials (42931791)
  - 1.45 Springfield Rifle (1982) with Gary Cooper Western drama about a Union officer who goes undercover to break up a gang of Confederate rustlers. Directed by André de Toth (53746178)
  - 3.30 Here's One I Made Earlier: Recipe series (1) (49) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (1) (4) 4.30 Countdown (1) (8497158) 4.55 Ricki Lake (1) (2304642) 5.30 Pet Rescue (1) (120)
  - 6.00 Friends: The One with the Birth When Carol goes into labour, Ross and Susan rush to be by her side. Joey believes an unmarried and heavily pregnant woman (1) (866159)
  - 6.25 Fluke Comedy game show (874178)
  - 6.55 Fresh Pop (720178)
  - 7.00 Channel 4 News (1) (648913)
  - 7.50 Singles (671623)
  - 8.00 Moving People: The start of a repeat of the first series about people moving house (1) (8823)
  - 8.30 Brookside: Mick and Elaine have a desperate choice to make. Jimmy's continual jussing gets Jackie down. There's a shock in store for Ollie (1) (8130)



De Marney and Gray (3.30pm)

- 3.30 Dangerous Moonlight (1942) with Anton Walbrook, Derrick De Marney and Sally Gray War drama about a man's struggle to rebuild his life after he is injured while on military service. Directed by Brian Desmond Hurst (1683420)
- 5.20 Hospital Live: An update from Guy's Hospital, London (86287333)
- 5.30 100 Per Cent (7984913)
- 6.00 Move on Up (1) (7981828)
- 6.30 Family Affairs: Holly, Duncan and Melanie have a night on the town (1) (7982178)
- 7.00 Hospital Live: Kristy Young meets patients on the children's ward at Guy's, including 12-year-old Shelly Newman who was recently diagnosed with kidney failure (6241517)
- 7.30 Natural Naïves: Small is Beautiful: Documentary about the harvest mouse (1) (7971062)
- 8.00 Fame and Fortune: A look into the life of Michael and Shakin' Caine (1) (8250265)
- 8.30 5 News (1) (8239772)
- 9.00 Poltergeist: The Legacy: Derek is tormented by terrifying nightmares (1) (8250261)
- 9.50 Poltergeist: The Legacy: High-camp horror. Nick and Philip investigate when an evil spirit infests a high school after an occult experiment (1) (3890710)
- 10.45 The Jack Docherty Show (1796555)
- 11.30 Prisoner: Cell Block H (8148791)
- 12.30am Live and Dangerous: Sports magazine hosted by Jeremy Nicholas and Helen Chamberlain. Includes at 2.00am motor sport action (8701579)
- 5.30 100 Per Cent (1) (3235114)

- CHANNEL 5**
- CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE**
- Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz.
- 6.00am News Early (8621804)
  - 7.30 Haverlock (7657791) 8.00 Adventures of the Bush Patrol (7554888)
  - 8.30 WorldWide: The Living Earth: Maggie Philbin presents the first in a ten-part study of the history and development of the Earth (7553159)
  - 9.00 Espresso (3254449) 10.00 Hospital Live (1) (8233159) 10.30 Hot Property (1) (7566623)
  - 11.00 Looza (6115736) 11.50 Double Espresso (19805197) 12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (1) (7557075) 12.30am Family Affairs (1) (4121333)
  - 1.00 5 News Update (1) (7301689) 1.05 Sunset Beach (1) (8164420) 2.00 5's Company (8144975)



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For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

- SKY 1**
- 6.00am Morning Glory (8333336) 9.00 Page and Kathie Lee (17401) 10.00 America's Funniest Home Videos (17401) 11.00 The Next Generation (7420) 11.30 Real TV (8678) 12.00 Married... with Children (3550) 12.30 The Simpsons (5447) 1.00 The Simpsons (5447) 1.30 The Simpsons (5447) 2.00 The Simpsons (5447) 2.30 The Simpsons (5447) 3.00 The Simpsons (5447) 3.30 The Simpsons (5447) 4.00 The Simpsons (5447) 4.30 The Simpsons (5447) 5.00 The Simpsons (5447) 5.30 The Simpsons (5447) 6.00 The Simpsons (5447) 6.30 The Simpsons (5447) 7.00 The Simpsons (5447) 7.30 The Simpsons (5447) 8.00 The Simpsons (5447) 8.30 The Simpsons (5447) 9.00 The Simpsons (5447) 9.30 The Simpsons (5447) 10.00 The Simpsons (5447) 10.30 The Simpsons (5447) 11.00 The Simpsons (5447) 11.30 The Simpsons (5447) 12.00 The Simpsons (5447) 12.30 The Simpsons (5447) 1.00 The Simpsons (5447) 1.30 The Simpsons (5447) 2.00 The Simpsons (5447) 2.30 The Simpsons (5447) 3.00 The Simpsons (5447) 3.30 The Simpsons (5447) 4.00 The 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